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LD0507133188 [Editorial Report]

Reaction to Downing of Iranian Airbus

Iranians must "all be going toward the fronts for an all-out war against the United States and its lackeys," Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni declared in a message broadcast by Tehran radio after the downing of an Iran Air jetliner by the "USS Vincennes." Khomeyni, who was replying to an earlier message on the issue by Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, also offered condolences to the victims of the tragedy, and he described the downing of the passenger plane as "a warning bell for all air transport."

On a wider level, he viewed Iran's conflict with the United States as part of "the war of moral, ideological, and revolutionary values against the filthy world of bullying, money, and debauchery." Linking this conflict with the war with Iraq, he called on Iranian officials to concentrate all efforts on the war and to create "massive developments" in war-related issues.

Montazeri's message, which was broadcast by the radio earlier on 4 July, called on Khomeyni to authorize the drafting of "careful plans" for a "principled fight" against the United States on the "political, economic, cultural, and military fronts." A "full-scale war" against the United States cannot be fought by slogans and propaganda campaigns alone, Montazeri stated, and he suggested that Khomeyni could order the establishment of "cores of resistance inside and outside the country" which would take action to target U.S. "financial, political, economic, and military interests." However, these suggestions were not mentioned in Khomeyni's reply, which instead urged Montazeri to focus on supporting 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting armed forces commander.

Among other Iranian reaction, President 'Ali Khamene'i sent messages to foreign leaders affirming Iran's "undeniable right to avenge the blood" of the civilians who were killed by the U.S. missile attack on the Iranian airbus, IRNA reported. Khamene'i had earlier told Tehran radio that the United States will "suffer the consequences of its recent crime in the Persian Gulf" and that "the responsibility for any incident as a result of this tragedy lies with the U.S. President in person." He branded the U.S. Government and President Reagan in person as "criminals and murderers."

The Iranian Air Force commander stated in a Tehran television interview that the United States "cannot prove" it made a mistake in identifying the aircraft, and he said Iran views the downing of the passenger plane as "intentional." The head of Iran Air stated in remarks broadcast by Tehran radio that the Iranian plane was hit while flying along the middle axis of its normal flight path, and he added that if the U.S. Navy had given any warning, this would have been picked up by the Bandar-e 'Abbas control tower, which would have advised the pilot to change course or return. However, "everything appeared normal" until the plane was hit by a missile, the official contended, adding that the United States "knows quite well that it is lying."

However, such claims by Iranian officials were contradicted by officers on an Italian frigate which was among the first vessels to reach the area where the Iranian plane was downed 3 July. The Italians said that the airbus was not flying at a normal altitude for civilian aircraft and that it did not respond to radar warning signals, Rome radio noted.

IRNA transmitted Iran Air's provisional list of the foreign nationals among the over 290 people killed by the explosion and crash of the Iranian plane. The dead included 1 Italian, 6 Yugoslavs, 6 Pakistanis, 14 UAE and Kuwaiti nationals, and 8 Indians. The agency also disclosed that the victims included 66 children.

Iran's view of the U.S.-Iranian naval clash which preceded the downing of the jetliner was outlined by an IRGC Navy source cited by Tehran radio. He claimed that the fighting was started by a U.S. helicopter which opened fire at Iranian naval vessels and was then shot down. The "USS Vincennes" then fired at the Iranian vessels, causing "minor damage" to one of them. The "Vincennes" fired missiles at the Iranian plane after this clash had finished, the official added, and he said there is "no doubt" that the Americans knew they were firing at a passenger plane because it was "clearly visible to the naked eye." Tehran radio subsequently reaffirmed Iran's claim to have downed a U.S. helicopter, stating that U.S. officials are keeping silent about the issue but they will be "forced to admit" the loss when the wreckage of the chopper is found.

On the situation in the Gulf following the downing of the airbus, Tehran radio noted that "gunboats" attacked a Norwegian oil tanker 3 July. AFP confirmed that the attack was carried out by an Iranian vessel, adding that no injuries or serious damage were caused. Iranian speedboats had also attacked a Danish supertanker near the Strait of Hormuz the night before the Iranian-U.S. clash, according to Baghdad radio. The Iranian attacks followed Iraqi strikes on two large maritime targets in the Gulf 1-2 July, as announced in an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. A Greek tanker was hit by an Exocet missile in one of the Iraqi raids, Athens radio noted.

In the Arab world, the sharpest official condemnations of the U.S. shooting down of the airbus came from Syria, Libya, and the PDRY. A Syrian official cited by Damascus radio condemned "this atrocious crime," stressing that Syria learned of it with "amazement, pain, and disgust." JANA carried a Foreign Liaison Bureau statement which said this "new criminal act" has added another page to the U.S. "black record, which is full of the crimes of official state terrorism." The PDRY Foreign Ministry likewise condemned the U.S. action as "terrorist behavior" which illustrates the "pressing need" for the withdrawal of naval fleets from the Gulf," according to Aden radio.

The general official response from Gulf states was to view the incident with regret, without condemning the United States, and to link it with further calls for an end to the Iran-Iraq war. This pattern was followed in official statements by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Qatar, and Bahrain, as reported by SPA, Kuwait radio, and WAKH. The Kuwaiti statement noted that the "regrettable" downing of the airbus "was due to the fact that the aircraft passed over an area in which there were clashes between a number of Iranian boats and U.S. naval units." Although Iraq issued no official statement on the incident, INA noted that Iranian opposition leader Mas'ud Rajavi held the Khomeyni regime responsible for the downing of the plane.

Other Mideast reaction included an Algerian statement, broadcast by Algiers radio, which expressed sympathy and condolences, viewed the incident as the result of the "unfortunate concentration of foreign fleets in the Gulf," and called for "restraint and a sense of responsibility" to avert further "reprehensible" acts. Turkey also expressed regrets in a statement carried by Ankara radio, and it advised "all the concerned sides" to act calmly and refrain from provocative acts. Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he was "appalled and grieved" by the tragedy, Islamabad radio reported, and he urged the U.S. Government to carry out a full inquiry into the incident and to punish those responsible for this "unpardonable" deed. In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the United States should not be blamed because the incident was caused by human error, Jerusalem radio noted.

Among Arab press comment, Jordan's AL-RA'Y denounced the downing of the airliner as "cold-blooded murder." In contrast, Bahrain's AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ commended the United States for having "enough moral courage to admit that the incident occurred by mistake," WAKH reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Action—On the northern battlefronts, forces of the Iraqi I Corps captured a number of heights, according to communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio over the weekend. An Iranian communique cited by IRNA 4 July acknowledged fighting in the mountains near Panjwin and claimed that the Iraqis were forced to retreat after suffering "heavy damage and casualties." Other "skirmishes" also broke out in the highlands west of Sar Dasht, the communique said. An IRNA report charged that at least five civilians were killed when Iraqi artillery shelled Sar Dasht and the surrounding area; however, an Iraqi military spokesman termed the charges "empty allegation." He also denied Iranian reports that Iraqi planes bombed a residential area of Bushehr in the south.

THE KOREA TIMES revealed that a 30 June Iraqi air strike "severely damaged" a natural gas complex under construction at Kangan, adding that the South Korean company in charge of the project is considering evacuating its workers who number more than 300. The Seoul government may order all Korean workers out of Iran and Iraq, YONHAP noted.

Iranian Reorganization—A "general command headquarters" including representatives of the government, the armed forces, and the IRGC has been set up with a view toward creating "maximum coordination in operations," Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief of the armed forces, announced 2 July in an interview broadcast by Tehran television. While Hashemi-Rafsanjani noted that a task of the new headquarters will be to "amalgamate" the military services and the guards into "a more powerful force," he declared that there are "no immediate plans to merge" the IRGC with the other services. Hashemi-Rafsanjani urged the people to heed the call for mobilization, and he hinted that the current 28-month enlistment term may be lengthened because "it is not adequate for war on such a scale."

On the subject of foreign policy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented that Iran incorrectly "created enemies" and neglected to attract potential friends. The Foreign Ministry has been instructed to "tread the correct path," he noted. In a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, President Khamene'i admitted that the Islamic Republic has suffered from missed opportunities and "some shortcomings," including "weaknesses" in its military preparedness and strategy. He emphasized, however, that the people must concentrate on resolving problems rather than seeking out "culprits" or scapegoats.

Lebanon

Over 70 people were killed or wounded in further fighting between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in the Burj al-Barajinah area 4 July, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported. The casualties included 15 children who were hit in a shelter where they were hiding from the shelling. Related reports by Voice of Lebanon radio noted that 'Arafat's men repulsed three attacks by Abu Musa's Fatah "dissidents," who shelled Burj al-Barajinah with field artillery and mortars. Approximately 1,300 pro-'Arafat fighters remain in the camp, but most of the civilian population have fled, the radio said.

Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio accused Syria of direct involvement in the fighting, claiming that Syrian artillery positions participated in the bombardment of Burj al-Barajinah, giving covering fire to the "assorted agent forces" which unsuccessfully attacked the camp. The radio broadcast commentaries over the weekend which continued to excoriate the "Damascus regime" for its alleged role in the fighting, warning that the PLO expects Syria to escalate its "cursed and shameful war" against the Palestinians by beginning a second round against the camps in the Sidon area.

A PLO Executive Committee statement carried by Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio asserted that to call the fighting "inter-Palestinian" is "false and misleading," adding that "the attempt to hide behind false Palestinian names" cannot obliterate Syria's role in the conflict and its "responsibility" for ending it. In contrast, Palestinian factions in Syria criticized the "systematic unjust information campaign" against Syria issued in the name of the Fatah leadership, Damascus radio reported.

In another development, Yasir 'Arafat held talks with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Libya 3 July, according to Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio. In an arrival statement cited by JANA, 'Arafat hailed Al-Qadhdhafi's efforts to end the fighting in Beirut.

Inter-Arab Diplomacy in Baghdad, Damascus

Jordan's King Husayn held talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in Baghdad 4 July, INA reported, noting that their discussions focused on bilateral and Arab developments. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah had earlier delivered a message from the Kuwaiti amir to Saddam Husayn, and he stated afterward that his talks with the Iraqi leader were "positive," according to INA. Shaykh Sabah subsequently met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus, Kuwait radio reported, noting the Kuwaiti side's view that the talks were "fruitful and constructive." Shaykh Sabah gave Al-Asad a message concerning the Palestinian situation in Lebanon and the Arab situation, the radio added. An official Kuwaiti statement cited by KUNA confirmed that Shaykh Sabah's current tour is linked with efforts to put an end to the fighting in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

Hafiz al-Asad also received Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i over the weekend, Damascus television reported, noting that Al-Rifa'i conveyed a message from King Husayn. Al-Rifa'i and the Syrian prime minister held talks within the framework of the Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, which discussed ways to expand economic cooperation, trade exchange, and the work of joint companies, Amman radio disclosed.

Syrian Denial on Missiles

Responding to recent Israeli reportage about a Syrian-PRC missile deal, a Syrian military spokesman cited by SANA 2 July stressed that "no such deal exists or is being discussed." The Israelis know that Syria already possesses missiles which suit its defensive needs, the spokesman added, but they make frequent statements about the missile issue in an attempt to pressure the United States to augment Israel's "aggressive arsenal."

A Damascus radio commentary likewise viewed Israel's "stir" about Arab missiles as a pretext to acquire a new U.S. missile system, noting that Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's visit to Washington resulted in an agreement on Israel's acquisition of a new antiballistic missile system. Similarly, an AL-BA'TH editorial reviewed by the radio viewed Israel's campaign over Syria's alleged missile deal as "an excuse for paving the way for aggression against Syria."

In a related development, a 2 July article in the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir recently instructed Rabin to draw up military plans for an attack on Syrian positions where missiles are expected to be deployed. In an interview with Jerusalem radio following his return from the United States, Rabin stressed that Israel is "threatened" by any Arab country that possesses surface-to-surface missiles with sufficient range to hit Israel.

Israel: Occupied Territories

Security forces closed the Old City of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount gates 3 July after a "serious riot" erupted on the Via Dolorosa to protest excavation work by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Jerusalem radio reported. Local residents were mobilized against the excavation project by the Temple Mount muezzin, who chanted "inflammatory" slogans, the radio said. Large numbers of policemen were deployed in the area to restore order. In a subsequent interview with IDF radio, Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer denied that the excavations will harm the non-Jewish population of Jerusalem, and he said his ministry is "sensitive" to the concerns of other religions in the city.

However, he expressed the view that Jews do not need permission from others to conduct archeological digs in Jerusalem, as it is "a sovereign Jewish city." In contrast, the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio broadcast a statement by the Jerusalem Higher Islamic Committee which accused "Jewish religious bigots" of jeopardizing historic Islamic buildings in the city by tunnelling underneath one of the main gates on the northwest side of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

In other developments, a Janin youth was shot dead when an IDF force dispersed demonstrators in the area 2 July, according to Jerusalem radio. A Palestinian woman died in an East Jerusalem hospital the previous day from bullet wounds sustained in a clash with the IDF over a month ago, the radio noted. Meanwhile, a military court laid "serious charges" against an IDF soldier who killed an Arab youth near Ramallah 4 months ago, Jerusalem television reported.

Further instructions on ways to continue the "uprising" were provided in a statement issued by "the strike forces in Jerusalem" and broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio 2 July. It urged Palestinians to take revenge for their own losses by "liquidating any soldier or settler carrying arms," and it also called for more acts of arson and sabotage "deep inside enemy territory."

Libya-Egypt

A delegation of Libyan lawyers which arrived in Cairo 30 June to attend an Arab Jurists Association meeting was detained at Cairo Airport and subjected to "arbitrary oppressive measures" before being deported to Athens, JANA reported. While the Egyptian authorities carry out such "arbitrary provocative measures" against Arab citizens, they open the land of Egypt to "Zionists" who "desecrate and corrupt" it, the agency contended.

Afghanistan

A Foreign Ministry statement broadcast by Kabul radio 2 July expressed "profound concern" over "provocative remarks" by Pakistani President Ziaul Haq. The statement accused General Ziaul Haq of having "no respect" for the commitments undertaken when Pakistan signed the Geneva accords, and it charged that his "hostile and irresponsible comments" about Afghanistan are further evidence of support for the opposition's "ill-intentioned plans" as well as part of the general's strategy to maintain his power. "Military solutions to regional disputes" are not in the interests of the Pakistani people, the statement asserted.

In a subsequent statement also carried by the radio, the Foreign Ministry stressed the government's desire for a "broad-based coalition administration" and signaled its willingness to conduct a dialogue aimed at creating a "new mechanism" for deepening the coalition. The Geneva accords call for the "simultaneous advancement" of the processes of national reconciliation and political rapprochement, the ministry recalled, and it urged Pakistan and the United States to stop supporting "irreconcilable extremists" and strictly adhere to the stipulations of the accords.

Regarding military developments, rebel sources told AFP that Mohammad Agha, a district capital in Lowgar Province, was captured 1 July. The town, which is "strategically situated" 18 miles from Kabul on the road to Gardeyz, came under rebel control after having been besieged for several days.

Palestinian Affairs

DFLP Links Plane Downing, Al-Aqsa Incidents

JN0407124488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The DFLP Political Bureau today vehemently denounced the abominable crimes committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against defenseless citizens in the Al-Aqsa Mosque sanctuary in Jerusalem yesterday. The DFLP Political Bureau linked these practices and yesterday's downing of an Iranian civilian plane by the Untied States.

The Bureau regarded the coincidence of both events as proof of the strong relationship between Israel and the United States as well as additional evidence of the aggressive nature of these two parties.

Fatah Dissidents Condemn Downing of Plane

JN0407163188 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, 4 Jul (SANA)—An official spokesman for Fatah-The Uprising has condemned the downing of the Iranian passenger plane by American imperialism.

In a press release distributed here today, the spokesman said the shooting down of the airliner is a monstrous crime added to a string of American imperialist crimes against world security and peace and the peoples and liberation movements of the region.

This ugly crime by the U.S. Administration, added the spokesman, provides fresh evidence of the risks inherent in the U.S. aggressive policies resulting from its military presence in the Arabian Gulf.

PLO Calls for 'Emergency' Arab League Meeting

LD0107200788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The PLO has asked for an emergency meeting of the Arab ministerial committee tasked with monitoring the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon. Mr Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian representative to the Arab League, after a talk today with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, stressed the PLO's eagerness for this meeting to put an end to the tragedy of the camps. Bal'awi also stressed the PLO's commitment to full cooperation by all means to stop the deterioration of the situation in the camps and to restore normal life there.

It is noteworthy that the Arab ministerial committee tasked with monitoring the situation in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon was formed in December 1989 [as heard] and it includes representatives from Tunisia, Jordan, UAE, Algeria, Kuwait, Mauritania, and North Yemen.

'Uprising' Leadership Assails Syria Over Shatila

JN0107204688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2015 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Tunis, 1 Jul (INA)—The Unified National Leadership of the Palestinian Uprising in the occupied Arab land has held the Syrian regime responsible for the ugly crimes against the Shatila camp residents.

In a statement carried by the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY today, the Unified National Leadership urged the Arab nation to act seriously and quickly to forestall further massacres by the Syrian regime in the Burj al-Barajinah and other camps in Lebanon. It said the Syrian regime committed its crime at a time when the Palestinian uprising is in need of a unity of solidarity and struggle in its support. This aggressive page marks a new link in the chain of the ugly conspiracy against the Palestinian people and PLO, it said.

Radio on Syrian 'Hostile Scheme' Against Camps

JN0107202888 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1639 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] O brothers: The resolutions of the extraordinary Algeria summit, the summit of the uprising, have been clear and frank in the need to offer all forms of support to the giant popular Palestinian uprising. Because of this, the enemies and opponents of the uprising as well as those who fear it are today in a hurry to fabricate side battles for the Palestinian people, their national leadership, and their revolutionary instrument.

The objective is to obstruct the resolutions of the uprising summit and to divert the attention of the world from the uprising so that the Zionist occupation will practice more violence, killing, and repression against our valiant masses away from the eyes of the world and the media.

In light of this fact, we understand exactly what is taking place in Lebanon now against our camps, particularly in Beirut. It has become clear that the Damascus regime, at least since 1982 until now, has completely turned into a regime which provides services in the interest of the United States and its destructive schemes against the major issues of the Arab nation, particularly the Palestinian issue.

Not only that, but the Damascus regime clings to the role of spearhead in the U.S. schemes, which are also Israeli, particularly against the PLO and against the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon. Hence we understand why the Damascus regime, before all others, has volunteered to implement the ugliest, most brutal, and most violent link in the hostile scheme against the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon, against the PLO, and against any great militant Palestinian act.

The enemies now believe that the time is appropriate, in fact, there is a need to escalate the war, the war of annihilation against the Palestinian camps in Beirut to uproot them on one hand and to strike at the giant uprising inside the occupied territory on the other. Based on this, we expect that the cursed and shameful war of the Damascus regime will escalate further and further against the various locations of the temporary Palestinian presence in Lebanon. As the flames of this war are burning in Beirut, now the second round will be in Sidon, in southern Lebanon.

There is a strong possibility that the Zionist enemy forces will participate in this round. These are not merely expectations. The Burj al-Barajinah camp is now being subjected to continuous military concentrations which are imposing a tight siege around it to begin violent battles against it. Reports from Beirut said fire from various Syrian weapons began yesterday morning against the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

In one form or another, the Israeli enemy is now attempting to lead a confrontation against the uprising from Lebanon. Whether or not this is coordinated with the Damascus regime, the outcome is the same. We do not believe that the Damascus regime is so stupid not to realize that what it is doing to the Palestinian camps in Beirut is practically a blow dealt to the uprising in the occupied territory. This is in practice a great service to the Israeli enemy and its destructive schemes against the Palestinian issue.

When will the Damascus regime realize that it cannot achieve what the Israeli enemy itself failed to achieve? When will it understand that the revolution, the uprising, is not in a field but in the people's soul, conscience, deeds, and decisionmaking and that it will continue to burn until victory in any Palestinian site inside and outside the occupied homeland?

We are not saying this so the Damascus regime will retreat from its abominable acts and shameful collusion. We are saying this to affirm that defeat is the inevitable fate for the American-Israeli aggressive destructive schemes and for the Syrian spearhead. It is also the fate of the scheme, its role, and all its tools, particularly the Damascus regime which no longer knows how to stop its accelerating collapse and its downfall into the abyss of complete defeat and the curse of all Arab generations.

Algeria

Statement of Condolences to Iran Over Airbus

LD0407192288 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a statement this evening:

The Ministry spokesman expresses Algeria's deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the fraternal Iranian people and the families of the victims. Algeria also expresses its consternation over this tragic development which cannot be dissociated from the unfortunate concentration of foreign fleets in the Gulf region. Algeria, having warned against an extension of the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the risks of other nations becoming involved—both of which escalate the war, aggravate the situation, and cause the greatest harm to chances of restoring peace and stability in the Gulf region—can only deeply regret the persistence of the spirit of confrontation and its harmful consequences.

The communique adds that at a time when praiseworthy international efforts are being undertaken to achieve a peaceful and honorable solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict in accordance with of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598, it is particularly deplorable that a state vested to an essential degree with the mission of maintaining international peace and security should be directly implicated in a murderous military action which is, moreover, detrimental to civil aviation safety.

Algeria wishes to believe, the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman concludes, that this tragic occurrence will impose a duty of restraint and a sense of responsibility in order to avert the recurrence of further reprehensible acts of this nature and so that all efforts may converge to reinforce the delicate work of peace which the United Nations secretary general is conducting.

While this statement was being made public, the foreign affairs minister was receiving the Iranian ambassador in Algiers: Their conversation dealt with the dangerous development of the situation in the Gulf and the prospects for a political and honorable solution to the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Chad

Habre Dismisses Cabinet Member Moukhtar

AB0107192188 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1850 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] We open this newscast with a presidential decree dismissing Moukhtar Bachar Moukhtar:

The president of the Republic, head of state, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in view of the Fundamental Law of the Republic, in view of Decree No 144/GR/4/88 of 10 August 1987 reshuffling the cabinet, and in view of demands of duty decrees:

Article 1: Moukhtar Bachar Moukhtar has been relieved of his post of secretary of state for agriculture.

Article 2: The present decree takes effect from its signing date.

Issued in Ndjamena on 1 July 1988

Signed: El Hadj Hissein Habre

Habre Leaves on 'Working' Visit to Zaire 2 Jul

AB0207135188 Dakar PANA in French 1304 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Ndjamena, 2 (ATP/PANA)—The Chadian head of state, El Hadj Hissein Habre, left Ndjamena this morning for Gbadolite, Zaire, for a working and friendly visit at the invitation of the Zairian head of state, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. It is said that during this visit, President Habre will attend the graduation ceremony of the fourth commando battalion of Chad, which was trained in Kota Koli (Zaire).

President Habre is accompanied on his visit by the secretary of state for the interior, Mbairaroua Ndeirebeu; the commander in chief of the FANT, Major Djangbei Hassan; and the security commissioner of the executive bureau of the National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR), Issaka Hassan.

Ministerial Meeting With Libya Postponed

AB0407192688 Libreville Africa No 1 in French 1830 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Libreville meeting of Libyan and Chadian ministers of foreign affairs, initially scheduled to take place tomorrow, Tuesday, 5 July, and placed under the auspices of Mr Martin Bongo, the Gabonese foreign minister, will finally take place on Thursday 7 July in Libreville.

Diplomatic sources in the Gabonese capital stated that this postponement was decided upon because of a time factor. However, the duration of the talks—which are being held to create an atmosphere of confidence between Ndjamena and Tripoli—has not yet been determined. Among other topics to be discussed during this tripartite meeting is the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations between Chad and Libya.

Egypt

'Regrets' Expressed Over Downed Iran Airliner

NC0407113988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1106 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jul (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that the shooting down of the Iranian passenger plane shows the dangers facing the peoples of the Gulf area. He said that the incident should prompt the parties concerned and the whole international community to work assiduously and quickly to establish a just peace, which would rebuild what the war has destroyed.

Asked about Egypt's view on the incident, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said he expresses his regrets over the incident, which claimed a large number of innocent victims.

Opposition Parties Form 'National Front'

NC0407183588 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1715 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Egyptian opposition parties have decided to form a national front that will embrace all the Egyptian political forces, and to begin drafting a national charter for the defense of civil liberties in Egypt.

A statement released by the leaders of the opposition parties at a news conference, held at the Socialist Labor Party Headquarters in the Egyptian capital today, said that the parties will continue to hold consultations on the freedom of citizens to exercise their rights and to confront deviations affecting these rights.

The statement emphasized the commitment of the opposition parties to boycott the forthcoming local council elections and to adopt legal measures to contest their constitutionality in order to negate the election results.

The statement appealed to all Egyptian popular and trade union organizations and federations to hold meetings to explain these concepts, which have been approved by the opposition parties.

Libya

Foreign Liaison Bureau Condemns Airline Downing

LD0407122988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1135 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Jul (JANA)—Statement by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison on the shooting down of the Iranian civilian plane: On 3 July 1988, the United States committed a new criminal act by shooting down an Iranian civilian airliner in the Arabian Gulf, killing all passengers on board, numbering 290 people. By this act—threatening air and sea navigation, exposing the lives of civilian air passengers to danger, and committing aggression against peaceful people—the United States has added another page to its black record, which is full of the crimes of official state terrorism.

The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, while affirming its determined stand by the side of the Iranian people in their confrontation with the U.S. imperialist aggression and arrogance, would like to stress the following:

It vigorously condemns this barbaric, unprovoked aggression against the fraternal Iranian people.

Demands the withdrawal of all foreign fleets from the Arab Gulf.

This act, committed by the U.S. Administration, constitutes a violation of all conventions regarding air and sea navigation. It also constitutes a dangerous threat to international peace and security, not only in the region of the Arab Gulf, but throughout the world.

The peace-loving peoples are called upon to condemn this aggression and deter the aggressor and stop it within its limits, so as to insure this aggression will not reoccur, and to maintain international peace and security.

Called 'State Terrorism'

LD0307210788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1910 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 July (JANA)—The U.S. Administration committed a horrible crime today, which claimed 290 victims, when elements of the U.S. fleet massed in the waters of the Arabian Gulf fired missiles at an Iranian civilian airliner that was on its way from Tehran to Dubayy.

The 290 passengers on the airliner were killed when the latter exploded in midair because of the U.S. missiles.

The U.S. Administration has claimed responsibility for committing this awful slaughter through the words of its President Reagan, who described this terrorist act as a correct defensive action.

JANA's international affairs editor comments on this, saying that this ugly massacre committed by the United States today stresses anew to the world the practice of state terrorism adopted officially by that administration, disdaining all international laws, charters, and conventions. It also stresses at the same time the ultimate danger this practice has for the international peace and security of countries and individuals.

The editor further says that the truth of the ugly American face is revealed again when the President of the U.S. Administration declares with total impudence and disdain for human feelings and international conventions that the crime committed against civilian passengers by the U.S. forces thousands of miles from U.S. borders is a correct defensive action.

The editor adds: We in the Great Jamahiriyah have repeatedly pointed out the seriousness of the massed U.S. military concentrations in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, as well as the direct threats they may incur against international navigation and the freedom of travel and movement.

The international affairs editor stresses that the world as a whole, its public opinion, and its international institutions and organizations should take a firm and responsible stance vis-a-vis this disgraceful terrorist act committed by the Reagan administration, as well as regarding the line of state terrorism being pursued in general by this administration, a serious state terrorism which has not merely been threatening states, but has even threatened individuals as well.

The editor concludes: The savage crime committed by the forces of the U.S. fleet in the Arabian Gulf region might be repeated at any other place whose serenity is threatened by the presence of U.S. military concentrations. Thus, concern for world security and safety requires compelling the U.S. Administration to withdraw its fleets and its military bases, wherever they happen to be outside its own territory and territorial waters.

'Arafat Arrives in Tripoli, Praises Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0307203988 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Jul, JANA—Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat told JANA that he hailed the extensive efforts exerted by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the pan-Arab command of the Arab revolutionary forces for the halting of the in-fighting between the Palestinian brothers in Lebanon.

(?He said) that Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's efforts had a considerable effect in halting the in-fighting between the brothers in the Palestinian camps, which is appreciated by our Palestinian people and by the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat pointed out that there is a U.S. conspiracy aimed at ending the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, and (?affecting) the popular uprising led by the generation of anger through the people's committees in occupied Palestine.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat hailed the heroic resistance of the sons of the generation of the stone who today courageously resisted the forces of the Zionist enemy and the Zionist settlers who today attempted to dig an underground passage to enable them to reach the holy mosque in order to violate it as they did with the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD0307225488 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Yesterday evening [3 July], the brother leader of the revolution met with Brother Yasir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Egypt Deports Congress of the Bar Delegation

LD0307154188 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli 3 Jul (JANA)—At the Arab Bar Association's persistent invitation to the Great Jamahiriyah's General Professional Congress of the Bar, to participate in the meetings of the permanent office of the Arab jurist association in the Egyptian capital 2-3 July, the delegation of the General Professional Congress of the Bar, accompanied by the congress secretary, went to the Egyptian capital on 30 June. As soon as the delegation arrived at the Cairo airport, the Egyptian regime's police authorities hastened to arrest the delegation to subject it to arbitrary oppressive measures for 12 hours. In addition to forbidding the delegation from contacting any quarters, the delegation was deported under arrest to the Athens airport, from which it flew to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The delegation members stressed that during their time at the Cairo airport they saw a number of Libyan families in such a regrettable state, caused by the bad treatment of the Egyptian authorities, that one of the citizens fainted as a result.

These families were deported with the delegation of the General Professional Congress of the Bar after they were forbidden from entering Egypt.

While the authorities of the Egyptian regime carry out such arbitrary, provocative measures against the Arab citizens, they open the land of Egypt to Zionists to desecrate and corrupt it before their own eyes and under their personal protection. This position demonstrates the extent of the Egyptian regime's commitment to the application of the Stable David accords, the extent of its submission to U.S. orders, and its pursuit of anything that might satisfy the Zionists and the U.S. Administration.

Sudan

Prosecution Gives Evidence on Khartoum Attack

JN0307173588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Jul (SUNA)—Police Colonel Muhammad Hasan 'Abdu, the first prosecution witness in the Acropole Hotel case, has denied that the five defendants in the case were tortured or sworn at in any stage of the interrogation. None of the defendants have complained of torture or attempted attack by the interrogation team, he said.

Jalal 'Ali Lutfi, head of the defense commission, said in this morning's court session that although the defendants were involved in a noble political action, they were tortured and subjected to inhuman methods. He said he could not prove this torture. He added that the defense would be conducted along political aswell as legal lines because the defendants are not ordinary ones, but politicians of the first class who sacrifice their own lives for the sake of their homeland.

During the session, the defense commission cross-examined the first prosecution witness. Answering a question on whether the defendants had any personal hostility toward those who were killed in the incident, he said that the interrogation did not require [yaqtadi] this.

The witness said that some of the defendants referred to 15 May, the day on which the attack took place, as Land Day. Others referred to it as they day on which the land was usurped. He said the first defendant did not use the pistol he had on the eve of the attack.

Police Col Muhammad Hasan 'Abdu said that the defendants said in the interrogation diary that their aim was to attack U.S. and British interests. He denied that he saw the presence of any diplomatic elements following his arrival at the scene.

In answer to a question whether the hotel was suspected of being a place of suspicious elements, the witness said that there was nothing to necessitate the investigation of that matter. He said that the concentration of international organizations' employees in the hotel [words indistinct] lies in the heart of Khartoum, which facilitated their movement.

At the beginning of the session, the court saw a film of the victims and the scene of the attack in the Sudanese Club and the Acropole Hotel. The court will continue the trial tomorrow morning.

Spokesman Supports Eritrean Independence

EA0407112288 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Amharic 0630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] An official Sudanese Government spokesman has reaffirmed that the Sudan supports the just cause of the Eritrean people for independence. The spokesman, Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information Al-Sayyid 'Abdallah Ahmad made a statement to [name indistinct] newspaper in which he set out the stand of the Sudanese Government.

The minister noted that the struggle of the Eritrean people is just and legitimate. That is why the Sudan supports the Eritrean people's struggle for independence and an independent state.

The Sudanese spokesman added that the Eritrean people's right to independence is not something decided on by the Sudan. It was reaffirmed by the United Nations in 1952 and its also upheld and respected by many countries. The spokesman said the Sudanese Government supports the Eritrean people because of its belief that there should be a genuine solution to African problems. Its support is also based on international agreements and treaties.

Office of Saudi Paper Receives Bomb Threat

JN0407145988 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 4 Jul (SUNA)—The security authorities, with the help of explosives disposal experts, conducted a search today for a bomb said by an anonymous telephone caller to have been planted in the Khartoum offices of the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Nothing had been found in the offices when the search ended.

The anonymous caller had earlier telephoned the office's employees and informed them in both Arabic and English that a bomb would explode soon. Security forces immediately hastened to the building in which the newspaper offices are located. All office employees were evacuated. A thorough search was conducted; however, no bomb was found.

Tunisia

Mestiri Expresses Regret Over Iranian Airbus

LD0407231388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tunisia has received with deep sorrow and regret the news of the shooting down of an Iranian civilian airliner by a U.S. Navy missile on Sunday off Dubayy which resulted in the death of some 300 passengers. This was said today by Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri.

The foreign minister added that Tunisia bows in respect for the souls of the innocent victims and extends its condolences to their families. Tunisia draws anew the attention of international opinion to the deteriorating situation in the Gulf, which increases tension and endangers even more the security of individuals and countries.

Government Issues Appeal on Palestine Situation

LD0207184188 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Conditions in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon and the painful situation resulting from those conditions were the focal point of a ministerial working session chaired by the president this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage. The following statement was issued after the meeting:

The Tunisian Government follows with great concern the bloody events taking place in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon as a result of which a large number of the Palestinian people, who have been fighting all forms of oppression, injustice, and dispersion for years, have died. The Palestinian people have confirmed, despite what they are being subjected to through the bitter struggle and brave uprising, their ability to stand fast and their strong attachment to their legitimate rights.

They have also shown determination to continue their struggle, irrespective of the sacrifices required. What pains the soul is that the fighting has continued for many long weeks and that the victims have fallen at at time when it was necessary for the Palestinian martyrs to fall only in the arena of honor, for the recovery of their usurped homeland.

The brave uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab land has created a wave of sympathy and support for their heroic struggle, and consequently a positive change in the attitude of world public opinion. And no one has the right, especially those who have vowed to struggle for the sake of the sacred cause, to threaten these gains or to divert attention from what is happening in the Palestinian territories: the brave resistance, and the killing and oppression to which the strugglers are being subjected.

The Tunisian Government, expressing the sentiments of the Tunisian people and out of its belief in the sanctity of the Palestinian struggle, and because of its earnest concern for the safety of the Palestinian front in facing tyrannical occupation, appeals to the brothers to listen to reason and overcome the hatred and whims, and work to halt the shedding of pure Palestinian blood.

The Tunisian Government addresses a special appeal to all sides to halt the fighting and to resort to fraternal dialogue to solve the crisis peacefully, to prevent the waste of Palestinian energies, to preserve the gains of the uprising, and to demonstrate loyalty to the souls of the martyrs, in order to recover the land and the right.

Bahrain

Official Expresses Regret Over Downed Airbus

JN0407120088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1129 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Manama, 4 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has expressed its regret over the fall of the civilian Iranian plane into the Gulf yesterday which resulted in the death of a large number of innocent civilians who were aboard.

In a statement today, a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said: As Bahrain expresses its regret and sorrow to the families of the victims, it believes that this incident is a blatant example of the tension and threat to regional security and stability resulting from the Iraq-Iran war as well as of the dangers that will result from its continuation.

The source affirmed that Bahrain is looking forward to a swift end of the destructive Iraq-Iran war, which exposes the entire region to many tragedies one day after another.

Daily Cited on U.S. 'Moral Courage' on Plane

JN0407093688 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 4 Jul (WAKH)—[Passage omitted] The Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says: Yesterday's painful tragedy is undoubtedly the result of Iran's insistence on continuing the Iraq-Iran war, which has produced a serious explosive situation in the region. The newspaper is referring in its editorial today to the downing of a civilian Iranian plane that was carrying a large number of passengers by a surface-to-air missile fired from a U.S. warship.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ says: In its capacity as a superpower, the United States had enough moral courage to admit that the incident occurred by mistake. This admission has contributed to containing the effects of the incident and to settling its consequences, particularly since Iran is not in a position that allows it to escalate the situation and to sustain more losses on land and in the air.

The Bahraini newspaper says that the lesson that must be taken from this tragedy is that the Gulf war as well as its pains must stop immediately. The crazy 8-year war has wasted uncountable numbers of people.

Concluding its editorial, the newsapaper asks: Will the tragedy of the Iranian plane [end] the tragedy of the war? Will Iran relinquish its stubbornness and hostile policy toward the Arabian Gulf states and end the war through an honorable peaceful settlement for both parties? [passage omitted]

Kuwait

'Regret' Expressed Over Iranian Plane Downing

LD0407103088 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated that Kuwait has received with extreme regret and sorrow the news of the regrettable downing of a civilian Iranian Airways aircraft by an U.S. naval unit, which was due to the fact that the aircraft passed over an area in which there were clashes between a number of Iranian boats and U.S. naval units.

He said: Kuwait offers its sincere condolences to the Iranian Government and people and to the families of the victims and stresses that such a tragic incident is the result of the continuation of the tense situation in this region. This might threaten to bring out more painful incidents. Therefore, Kuwait urgently and persistently calls for a doubling of efforts to put a quick end to this tragic war between the two Muslim neighbors—Iraq and Iran—to achieve security and stability in this vital region of the world and provide its sons with the aspired for peace.

Antiterrorist 'Security Committees' Planned

LD0307092988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0825 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 3 (KUNA)—A senior Kuwaiti Civil Defense official unveiled in a press interview Sunday plans to combat terrorist acts nationwide by training security committees to shield public and non-governmental installations and establishments with a staff exceeding 50 people.

Director of training in the Civil Defense Corps, Captain Mutlaq Abbas Munawir, told the daily AL-WATAN that the security committees would guard security in and around these organizations to prevent any terrorist attacks intended to destabilize the country.

Captain Munawir indicated that each organization would have to present a staff list of nominees to the security committees, each comprising at least five members subject to approval from the Interior Ministry's Security Committee.

The official pointed out that field training and theoretical orientation of volunteers in the Civil Defense Corps, now numbering 4700 including many Ph.D. holders, physicians, pharmacists, university graduates, civil servants and merchants, would start early November.

He noted that volunteers would train for about two months in 13 centers in the country's four governorates, construction of which would finish in October.

Captain Munawir expected larger numbers of citizens to sign up as volunteers in the Civil Defense Corps, saying the public still require more time to digest the campaign.

Captain Munawir indicated that competent authorities would survey the need for expatriate volunteers in the Civil Defense Corps following the graduation of the first batch of citizens.

He added that training, in morning and evening sessions, would focus on safety measures during air raids andprinciples of safety and security in private and public installations and organizations, besides topics such as first aid, relief and combatting fires.

The official underlined the importance of women volunteers in the civil defense program, particularly first aid, blood transfusion and other auxiliary medical assignments.

"No doubt voluntarism creates a popular base to shield the home front the importance of which matches protection of the external front. And women volunteers would stand side by side with security men in times of natural disasters, sabotage and other security issues," he went on.

Captain Munawir said graduate volunteers would each year be recalled for a monthly refreshment course as in the case of military conscription.

He emphasized that high degree holders and specialists would take registration priority in the November training course and like other volunteers would be awarded graduation certificates that would help them in their careers.

Concluding the director pointed out the volunteers would receive rewards to be determined by the minister of interior later.

April Hijack Blamed on 'Lax' Bangkok Security

LD0307160088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1232 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 3 (KUNA)—Kuwait (?has concluded) that inadequate security precautions in Thailand were the main reasons for the tragic hijack incident of the Kuwait Airways Boeing 747 last April which resulted in the killing of two Kuwaitis.

However, Kuwait has also found that insufficient security measures by the Ministry of Interior and Kuwait Airways have also helped the hijackers to commit their crime.

These are the main conclusions of the investigation conducted by the governmental committee formed following the end of the drama in April 18.

The committee's report was presented today before the regular meeting of the cabinet. After discussing the report, the cabinet decided to form another committee headed by deputy premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to "take necessary measures in this regard."

The Kuwaiti airliner was skyjacked on April 5 while on a Bangkok-Kuwait route by less than ten men. It was forced to land in Mashhad airport in Iran and few days later it was flown to Larnaca, Cyprus, where two Kuwaiti young men were killed.

Only after Algerian mediation the hijackers accepted to release the passengers in Algiers under an agreement with the Algerian authorities.

"The report clarified that the incident did not take place because of lack of financial resources or approved supplies, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid ʿAbd al-ʿAziz al-Rashid told reporters after the Cabinet meeting which was chaired by his highness the crown prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Saʿd al-ʿAbdallah.

"Despite the fact that the committee was unable to determine how the hijackers managed to smuggle their arms into the plane, it is undoubtedly that lax security measures in Bangkok airport facilitated the committal of the crime," he charged.

With a more specified language, the minister said "The lax security measures in Bangkok airport was the direct and main reason for the occurrence of this incident."

Bangkok airport officials, who are believed to have just received the conclusion of the investigation, said at the time that they are sure the weapons were not brought on board the plane from Bangkok.

Some reports speculated that additional weapons were taken inside the plane in Mashhad before the departure of the plane to Larnaca.

PDRY

Foreign Ministry Condemns Iranian Plane Downing

EA0407215188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The PDRY Foreign Ministry has expressed, via a responsible source, its condemnation of the shooting down of the Iranian civilian airliner by U.S. fleet units stationed in the Gulf. The source said such terrorist behavior clearly indicates the pressing need for the withdrawal of the naval fleets from the Arabian Gulf. This is what the PDRY has called for and continues to call for on the basis that this presence constitutes a threat to the security and safety of the states and peoples of the region.

Qatar

'Profound Grief' Expressed Over Plane Downing

JN0407194588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1925 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Doha, 4 Jul (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed profound grief and regret over the crash of an Iranian civil airliner in the Gulf waters yesterday. A large number of innocent civilians were victims of this tragic incident.

In a statement today, a responsible source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the State of Qatar extends heartfelt condolences to the government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran and also to the families of victims.

In his statement, carried by QNA, the source added the State of Qatar is of the opinion that this painful incident is only an example of the tragic results of the Iraq-Iran war. The continuation of this war may lead to further tragic results and also to severe tension, which may prevail in the region and pose great threat to the regional security and stability.

The State of Qatar also appealed to the entire international community to exert every effort to end this destructive war by peaceful means so that the aspired lasting peace and total harmony will prevail among all peoples in the region.

Saudi Arabia

'Regret' Expressed Over Iranian Plane 'Incident'

LD0407213888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Riyadh, 4 Jul (SPA)—The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has expressed its regret over the incident that claimed so many lives of the Iranian Muslim people and others as a result of the downing yesterday of the Iranian civilian passenger plane in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, as reported by Iranian and U.S. media. A responsible source has conveyed this to SPA.

The source added that while the Kingdom expresses its condolences to the families of the victims of this incident, it looks forward to a swift end to this destructive war between the two Muslim states of Iraq and Iran for the sake of warding off more dangers and calamities in the Gulf area.

Council of Ministers Discusses Gulf, Hajj

LD0407195788 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 4 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a session of the Council of Ministers this afternoon at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah.

After the session, His Excellency Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said:

After a quick review of the reports concerning the latest political and security developments in the Arab area, including the military escalation of the last 2 days in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, the Council heard a comprehensive and precise analysis of current events by the custodian of the two holy mosques and on their political and military dimensions and the aggravations they would produce. A greater measure of vigilance and alertness are required along with complete readiness to confront any sudden incident. The current situation also requires a firm and unified Arab stand toward these developments at all levels.

The information minister added that the exalted king afterward acquainted the Council with the results of his talks and meetings this week with the senior guests of the Kingdom who were sent by their governments to convey verbal and written messages within the framework of continuous consultations between the Kingdom and the fraternal and friendly states concerning the events of the hour and matters of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

The information minister concluded, saying: The Council continued to devote attention to following up the stages of completing work on affairs concerning the pilgrimage and the pilgrims and ensuring that comfort is provided for the pilgrims who have already arrived. The Council also heard a report by the minister of petroleum and mineral resources concerning the oil market. It also discussed some routine business included in the agenda and made the appropriate decisions concerning them.

United Arab Emirates

Official Expresses Sorrow Over Airbus Downing

JN0507053088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2040 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 July (WAKH)—The UAE has expressed its deep sorrow for the painful accident that occurred yesterday, Sunday, and which resulted in the downing of an Iranian civil airplane by a U.S. naval unit during clashes between these units and Iranian gunboats in the Gulf waters.

This was announced by an official source in the Foreign Ministry. The official said that the UAE sees that this tragic accident came as a result of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war. This affirms that the continuation of the war will only lead to insecurity and instability in the region and hence the UAE repeats its call to all parties concerned to respond quickly to the wish of the international community, represented in Security Council Resolution No 598, and calls for implementing it and ending the tension in the region.

The source concluded his statement, which was carried by WAM, by saying: The UAE expresses its deep sorrow and grief over the death of this large number of innocent victims on the ill-fated airplane. The UAE extends its condolences to the Iranian people and government and to the families of the victims.

'Suspect' U.S. Plan on War Reportedly 'Foiled'

JN0207112088 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 30 Jun 88 pp 1, 26

[Fadyah al-Sharqawi dispatch]

[Excerpt] Iraq has foiled an attempt to implement a suspect U.S. settlement plan between Tehran and Baghdad under Washington's auspices. This took place when Baghdad reports said that relations with Washington had entered a new stage of tension. The reports said that President Saddam Husayn did not receive Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, during his recent visit to Baghdad. A diplomatic source in Paris told AL-ANBA' that according to the U.S. plan, Iranian forces are to recapture Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], which Iraq liberated 10 days ago, to be followed by international intervention to reconcile the two parties in the war.

AL-ANBA' asked the diplomatic source whether Iraq rejected this plan. The source said that Baghdad did not reject the plan because it was not presented to it in the first place. However, Washington was preparing to extend this new settlement. Iraq knew the plan of the U.S. and Iranian capitals and succeeded in aborting it through the failure of the Iranian offensive on Al-Shalamjah the week before last.

The diplomatic source added that Washington wants to achieve the objective of Irangate, that is, to search for friends in Tehran. In the past, Washington dealt with Rafsanjani, whose star is high in Tehran's sky now. The United States saw that it should support him.

The source's assessment is that in Iran the war has become less popular. Washington wants to stop the war after a partial Iranian victory that will lead to a peace with Baghdad to ensure that moderates in Iran seize power.

The source said that Baghdad has affirmed more than once its adherence to Security Council Resolution No 598 and its readiness to stop the fighting if Iran accepts the resolution. It is known that Iraq agrees to the United Nations or the major powers guaranteeing the cease-fire. The source added that Iraq does not want to occupy Iranian territory, but if Iran does not accept peace Iraq will not stop its painful blows.

In the opinion of the source, Iran rendered Iraq a big service by not accepting the Security Council resolution because this kept the war going and allowed Iraq to recapture Al-Faw, Al-Shalamjah, and the Majnun Islands with its Army's forces. It is in Tehran's interest to accept this resolution today, not to wait until tomorrow.

The source expressed fear of an international understanding on division of Iran into states to guarantee Afghanistan's neutrality and calm in the Islamic Soviet republics. [passage omitted]

Saddam Husayn Responds to Khamene'i Remarks

JN0207170888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1412 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at a ceremony honoring several field commanders; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] You have fought glorious battles. The entire world is talking about them. The Iranians, through the president of their Republic, are blaming their media for not being able to confront the world media. The Iranian president urged his papers not to report the facts, but to stick to what he wants, otherwise he would take action against them the next time. This reflects a feeling of frustration over the facts as reported by the world media. [passage omitted]

We all know that victories have been recorded. On the other hand, the Iranian forces have withdrawn, and I will not say that they have been defeated. The defeat was not dealt to the Iranian forces or the Revolutionary Guards, but to Khomeyni and his political and military aides who involved the Iranian people in this historic dilemma. The dilemma is not a technical one, as their president said. He thought the dilemma was a technical one and that the lack of coordination between the Army and the Revolutionary Guards caused these defeats to their regime. The dilemma proved that their theory was wrong. Their theory is not compatible with the age. The Iraqis have discovered that this is a subversive theory that seeks to destroy the Iraqis and their present and future. The Iraqis played the role of a candle that is burning in defense of the whole of mankind, not just the Arab nation and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Brothers, the victory which you have recorded over the Iranian rulers—and I repeat the Iranian rulers and not the Iranian Army or the Iranian people, because we do not harbor evil for the Iranian Army or Iranian people and we do not have any designs on Iranian territory, nor do we want to humiliate the Iranian Army and Iranian people. [sentence as heard] We proceed from the basis that we are defending our dignity. I do not mean the dignity of our own persons, we who are meeting in this place or those who are of the same level outside this place, but the dignity of our people and Arab nation, the security of our people and Arab nation, and the honor of our people and the Arab nation.

In fact, I say, and I am convinced about this, that Iraq has played the role of a candle that is burning by its sacrifices and heroic confrontation against the Iranian rulers in defense of mankind as a whole, because the ideological basis from which dying Khomeyni and his evil aides have proceeded is an ideology which seeks the destruction and ruination of the whole of mankind, not just the Iranian and Iraqi peoples. [passage omitted]

The president of the Republic of Iran delivered a speech yesterday, Friday. His speech was full of fallacies and continues the same line of trickery. Among other things, he said that their defeat was a technical one. In other words, such a defeat could be tackled and rectified. The defeat was not a technical one. The defeats were not defeats of battles that could be rectified, but defeats of general policies. The policies pursued by the Iranian rulers in their relations with their peoples and the entire world are based on charlatanism, trickery, and lies. On the other hand, the Iraqis have pursued the policies of truth, clarity, objectivity, and the adoption of the laws of the age as they are. [passage omitted]

We are Iraqis who desire to live in peace in our country. We also desire to see others live in peace. However, we will chop off the hand of he who transgresses against our dignity. We will do so regardless of who he is and irrespective of his country and regardless of his country's geographic proximity to us or its remoteness from us. The one who seeks to humiliate our people will have his hand chopped by us. This is a firm course. We will expel the one who attempts to perpetrate aggression against our territory, regardless of the sacrifices that have to be offered.

We do not covet anybody's territory and we do not tolerate the coveting of our territory by anybody. To humiliate people's dignity is not our policy. Besides, this goes against our ethics. However, the one who attempts to humiliate the dignity of an Iraqi, inside or outside Iraqi territory, will be punished. We cannot forget such an offense. We cannot remain with hands folded during such behavior, irrespective of the party which demonstrates it. This is a principled stand manifested toward any Arab whose territory or dignity is exposed to threats or humiliation. [passage omitted]

Iraq's course goes in harmony with the spirit of the age. What I am saying right now is not different from my statements and speeches after the eruption of the duel between us and Iran. The difference in my statements might be very slight. However, they are the same in essence. In contrast, the talk that is being voiced by Khamene'i—his statement that I read yesterday—is different from what he said when they occupied Al-Faw. Khamene'i said that they turned the war into one involving phases. He added that one of these phases is the one which enabled them to bring pressure to bear on our Army in the south. He went on to say that when we failed to withdraw from Qasre-e Shirin, they were forced to punish us through their occupation of Iraqi territory here and there.

These statements are lies. All people, from the farthest east to the farthest west, know that we withdrew from the city of Qasr-e Shrin. All people, including the Iranians, know, hear, and still remember how they spoke about the strategic position of the city of Al-Faw and how they, as they said, secured all of Shatt al-'Arab under their control. The entire world remembers that they, after awhile, began to search for somebody to buy the oil of the Majnun Islands. They are the ones who spoke in detail about the oil reserves of the Majnun territories and about the number of years during which the production of oil there would continue. Khamene'i could have failed to remember that their statements would be kept in our records. We published the texts of these statements in the newspapers.

All people are aware of the talks voiced by the first echelon of officials, beginning with Khomene'i and his subordinates and ending with those superior to him, after their occupation of Panjwin. I do not remember that Khomeyni ever spoke on this issue. They remember how they said that Panjwin is full of minerals. Minerals are underground. Hence, the one who speaks about underground minerals comes to maintain his occupation and considers Panjwin a part of Iran. There is an incident that is not remote. It happened a short while ago. They had occupied Halabjah before we liberated Al-Faw.

Our decision at the time was that we would strike at them in Al-Faw once while holding them in place in Halabjah, instead of maneuvering and using all of our forces to confront them only in Halabjah. There is nothing in Halabjah other than a small plain called the (Shahrazur) plain. The Iranian officials, the main working team among them, spoke about the fertile (Shahrazur) plain and how it is cultivatable and of great value. They also spoke how their occupation of the plain will give Iran a new advantage. The one who comes to cultivate and plant the land does not intend to leave it.

It is hard to make people have confidence in a lying official, regardless of the degree of illiteracy prevailing among the people. The people may, for awhile or all the time, accept an inexperienced man, a feeble-bodied person, a person who does not enunciate well, a person who is sometimes inaccurate. However, it is hard for the people to accept a leader, an official given a leading role, when he is a liar. The liar cannot go on lying. The Iranian officials are liars. They are liars. Those who dealt with them know that they are liars. Those who dealt with them on issues related to purchasing and selling, beginning with the sale and purchase of arms and civilian equipment know that they are liars. And those who dealt with them in politics know that they are liars. And those who also dealt with them on issues related to military activities and combat know that they are liars, including the Iranian people.

To comment on this speech of Khamene'i and the fabrications and lies that he voiced, we say that Khamene'i is a liar. He and others made statements when they occupied Iraqi territory, some of which is still occupied. If they do not covet Iraq territory, let them leave this territory without any combat, without exposing their Army or men to humiliation, as we will not give up any inch of our territory. We said this before the Al-Faw battle. They must have been unable to believe that we will not concede any inch of our territory to the enemy. Their defeat, the defeat of the Iranian rulers, is a strategic defeat that is beyond any hope of remedy, even if they occupy a city, such as the border city of Halabjah.

The defeat of the Iranian rulers is not a technical one. It is not merely a disturbance in the administration, or a technical operation and tactical disorder which can be repaired. The Iranian rulers are responsible for Iran's defeat. First of all, they are responsible before God and, second, before people in Iran and the world. [passage omitted]

The fact is that the Iranian people do not want fighting, not because they are cowards, but because they have discovered that the Iranian officials want to throw them into a crematorium. No one wants to encroach on their territory or harm their dignity. However, in return for this, Iraq does not allow anyone to insult any of its citizens or any Arab citizen in the Arab homeland. This is if the Arab citizen wants us to support him to confront any attempt to undermine his dignity, territory, and honor. If Khamene'i, or the new general whom they thought could put matters on the right course; if they seek a remedy, then they should relinquish this empty arrogance. He should stay on his territory and treat the economic, moral, psychological, political, and social wounds of his people. These constitute a serious situation for the Iranian people. If he does so, then he might find a remedy and a way to rule his people. How to rule is a matter that concerns him and his people. This does not concern us.

Among the fallacies about which he spoke, Khamene'i says that the opposition against them, particularly the Mojahedin-e Khalq, are agents of Iraq. We do not have agents; what we have are struggler people whom we respect. They have their own opinions. For the record, I will say that we asked them to give us some information, but they refused, and we respected them as a political force when they refused. Such information could harm their economy or people. We can obtain this information on our own. This is taking into consideration that in order to prevent darkness from overcoming light, it is legitimate and sound for every Iranian citizen to cooperate with Iraq, because his cooperation with Iraq is not that of an agent, but a joint cooperation to save the Iranian and Iraqi people from the tyrannical and aggressive policy of the Iranian rulers, as well as their aggression against the Arab nation, Iraq, and all Muslims, including the Iranians themselves.

He wants to justify his defeats in Mehran, lie to the Iranian people, and depict the situation as if it was that of agents. He said that the agents cooperated with the Iraqis and defeated Khamene'i and his aides in Mehran. The issue is above all this. It is related to the awareness of the Iranian people themselves. The Iranian people have realized that they were deceived and that their rulers are charlatans. This goes along with the fact that the Iraqi people have continued to adhere to the righteous course which we have adopted from the very beginning until now. This is why the Iraqis are now fighting with the method that Khamene'i knows, and the Iranians do not fight with the method that Khamene'i used to know.

The Iranians have discovered charlatanism after 8 years and refused the method of charlatanism, and after 8 years, the Iraqis have continued to adhere to the righteous course. [sentence as heard] So, this has nothing to do with their defeat. The Iraqis will continue to cooperate with the alliance of all the good Iranians on the road of dignity, to not interfere in domestic affairs, and to not acquire or keep by force the land of others. This road will continue to escalate, and Khamene'i's road, the road of evil, aggression, and charlatanism, will continue to deteriorate on the strategic level, and not only on the technical, tactical, or operational level. [passage omitted]

We must expel the occupiers from every inch they are occupying. Tell our fighters, if the occupiers try to atack Iraq once again, after the land has been secured from them, we will act toward them in such a way that they will regret it tenfold. Let them record these words of mine and try to attack Iraq after we have liberated our territories. They will see that these words are not just propaganda such as theirs, but words linked with real determination and real capabilities.

I believe that we have sent them five letters. History will continue to record that the Iraqi people offer peace and five principles free of hostility and aggression or encroachment on dignity, territory, rights, or interests of any side. However, the Iranian rulers reject all this. Despite this, we have continued to adhere to the same peaceful approach. If the Iranian rulers resort to what has remained of reason around them, and I do not say their reason as I said before, then peace will prevail between Iraq and Iran and between the entire Arab nation and Iran. The Iranian rulers are shameless. They said that the U.S. fleet helped us when we liberated Al-Faw, and in Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh], in Majnun, and Muhammad Rasul Allah operations. God helped us and the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Makes Statement, Leaves

JN0407091888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad today at the end of a 1-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Kuwaiti foreign minister conveyed a written message to President Saddam Husayn from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, amir of Kuwait.

Shaykh Sabah said: I was pleased with meeting His Excellency President Saddam Husayn yesterday. In a statement to INA, the Kuwaiti minister added that the results of the meeting with President Saddam Husayn were positive.

Shaykh Sabah said: During the meeting, we discussed all regional problems, as well as the distinguished bilateral relations between His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir, which are an expression of the distinguished bilateral relations between the two fraternal peoples.

In his statement, the Kuwaiti minister stressed as important that the permanent members of the Security Council should shoulder their full responsibility to put a quick end to the Iraq-Iran war because the Iranians continue to ignore Security Council Resolution No 598.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We in Kuwait faced the evils of Iranian terrorism. He said that terrorism is not a Muslim characteristic. He expressed hope that the day to which President Saddam Husayn pointed will come and Iran extend its hand to peace. The Kuwaiti minister said: We seek a just, comprehensive peace as noted by Saddam Husyan. We seek peace with all countries, including Iran.

Reportage on Visit of Jordan's King Husayn

Holds Talks With Saddam Husayn

JN0407191588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived here this afternoon on an official visit to Iraq. His majesty was accorded an official reception led by President Saddam Husayn. Also taking part in the reception were RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; the RCC members; the director of the President's Office; the ministers; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

His Majesty King Husayn is accompanied by a delegation comprising Zayd al-Rifa'i, the prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; and Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

President Saddam Husayn and his brother, His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, have held a round of talks. At the beginning of the talks, His Majesty King Husayn extended his warm congratulations to President Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi Armed Forces, and the Iraqi people over Iraq's great victories achieved by liberating its national territory in the heroic battles that safeguard the Arab nation's sovereignty and dignity.

Talks dealt with the strong fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries and the positive outcome of the Algiers summit conference. This conference issued resolutions that represented both Arab consensus and the Arab nation's desire to condemn the Iranian aggression and support Iraq in its legitimate defense of both its territory and the Arab nation's dignity. Talks also dealt with the Arab situation in general.

Talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Ahmad Husayn, director of the President's Office; Brigadier General Husayn Kamil, head of the military industrialization organization and acting minister of industry and minerals; the president's secretary; and the Iraqi ambasador in Amman. They were attended on the fraternal Jordanian side by Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Court; Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

President Saddam Husayn hosted a special luncheon in honor of His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, which was attended by members of both sides.

President Saddam Husayn briefed his guest, His Majesty King Husayn, on the course of the battles of Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah [We Relied on God] and Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah Taniyatan [We Relied on God Once Again]. He also briefed him on the heroic deeds of our courageous soldiers designed to regain our national territory in Al-Shalamjah [Shalamcheh] and the Majnun Islands and liberate them from the filth of the Khomeyniite invaders.

President Saddam Husayn accompanied his brother, His Majesty King Husayn, on a tour of Baghdad to become acquainted with the city's cultural sites. The tour included a visit to the royal cemetery in Baghdad, where prayers were read for the souls of King Faysal I and King Ghazi.

Ends Visit, Departs

JN0407194288 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, monarch of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a brief, official visit. His Majesty King Husayn was accorded an official sendoff led by the leader, President Saddam Husayn. Also taking part in the sendoff were RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister, and Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; the RCC members; the director of the President's Office; the ministers; the president's secretary; the Iraqi ambassador in Amman; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Message Sent to Perez de Cuellar on POW's

JN0407170188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1537 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Iraq has urged the UN General Secretariat not to remain silent on the serious violations committed by the Iranian authorities against Iraqi POW's.

In a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar yesterday, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the serious Iranian violations of law require special and urgent concern by the Security Council. They also require speedy dispatch of a mission to investigate the conditions of Iraqi POW's in Iran. Iraq called for such a mission more than 3 months ago. 'Aziz added: So far, the UN General Secretariat has not taken the necessary measures to dispatch the proposed mission despite the seriousness of this topic and despite the fact that the Iranian regime continues its practices that violate both the law and the third Geneva convention of 1949 on POW's. Following is the text of the message:

Your Excellency, I have the honor to refer to our message dated 18 March 1988. In that message, we asked the General Secretariat to dispatch a mission to investigate the conditions of Iraqi POW's in Iran and to learn about the fate of more than 20,000 POW's whose names have not been registered by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] since they were captured several years ago, as well as the fate of another 7,000 POW's whose names have been registered by the ICRC but who disappeard and whose fate is unknown to the ICRC. We also asked that such a mission investigate the atrocities perpetrated against the Iraqi POW's in Iran, such as killings, torture, and the alteration of beliefs.

A noticeable period of time has lapsed since our aforementioned request. But so far, the General Secretariat has not taken the necesssary measures to dispatch the proposed mission, despite the seriousness of this topic and also despite the fact that the Iranian regime continues its practices that violate both the law and the third Geneva convention of 1949 on POW's. In this regard, we would like to point out that on 21 June 1988 we received a serious memorandum from the ICRC, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, on the work of the ICRC's mission in Iran and the conditions of the Iraqi POW's there. The memorandum contained the following serious points:

1. During its visits to a number of detention camps, the ICRC was not permitted to contact 7,327 captives who had been previously registered as POW's, noting that the ICRC earlier informed us that it did not know their fate.

2. The ICRC was not permitted to contact thousands of other POW's who it knows are present in Iran. According to the estimation of Iraqi authorities, they total more than 30,000 POW's at present.

3. The Iranian authorities have not informed the ICRC of the names of those captured.

4. The Iranian authorities did not enable the ICRC to carry out its tasks in a proper and effective manner in accordance with Article No 126 of the third Geneva convention of 1949.

5. [The ICRC] noted that the authority that holds captive the Iraqi POW's does not respect the basic rules of the third Geneva convention. Hence, and in view of the prevailing circumstances in Iran, the ICRC found itself unable to carry out the tasks assigned to it in accordance with the third convention. It also found itself obliged to reduce the number of its employees in Tehran.

In addition to the contents of the ICRC's memorandum, the ICRC reports that the POW's are subjected to severe political and psychological pressures designed to alter their political and religious beliefs. Moreover, the Iranian authorities have thus far permitted the mission to pay only one visit to some of the Iraqi POW camps since the mission resumed its work in Iran in December 1986, whereas the ICRC's mission in Iraq, for example, paid several visits to all Iranian POW camps in Iraq in 1987, at a rate of one visit every 6 weeks.

Among the very important issues affirmed by these reports is the fact that the mission's visits to the Iraqi POW camps in Iran took place in the presence of Iranian observers. However, the Iranian authorities did not permit the mission to hold separate meetings except in a very few case. This means it was not possible to obtain acurate and genuine information about the POW's conditions.

Your Excellency, in its aggressive war against Iraq, the Iranian regime has committed all atrocities against POW's which disgust civilized mankind. The atrocities include killing POW's in the detention camps in sight of the ICRC delegates, as happened in the Gorgan camp on 10 October 1984, and using violence and terrorism to alter the Iraqi POW's religious and political beliefs and then using them against their country. The Iranian regime continues to commit these atrocities in defiance of world public opinion. It also insists on continuing the war contrary to Security Council Resolution No 598.

Remaining silent on these serious violations of law is absolutely unacceptable. These violations require immediate treatment by the UN General Secretariat. It also requires special and urgent concern by the Security Council, as well as a speedy dispatch of the mission which we demanded more than 3 months ago. I ask Your Excellency to distribute this message as a Security Council document. Please accept my profound respect.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq, Baghdad, 3 July 1988

Iranian Opposition Criticizes Khomeyni Regime

JN0407183888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] London, 4 Jul (INA)—Mas'ud Rajavi, chairman of the Iranian Resistance Council, has held the Khomeyni regime responsible for the downing of the civilian Iranian aircraft because of this regime's insistence on continuing the war.

In a statement issued by the Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization's office here today, Rajavi noted that the Khomeyni regime will exploit the incident to promote its policy of aggression and to reject peace.

Rajavi described the Khomeyni regime as the archenemy of the Iranian people because it caused the death of 1.5 million people as a result of its aggressive policies, tortured hundreds of thousands, and executed tens of thousands of Iranians.

Rajavi emphasized that any concession or support for the Tehran regime will serve its repressive policy and promote war and terrorism.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,241

JN0107164088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,241 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 1 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. Our helicopter gunships flew 77 combat missions today, inflicting losses on the renegade enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment. They then returned safely to their bases, God be praised.

2. Four firing positions, one machinegun, and two vehicles carrying personnel were destroyed and one tank was damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. One of our units in the Special I Army Corps sector—Allahu Akbar forces—spotted two groups of scoundrels. It attacked them, killing 14 and wounding others. Elsewhere in the sector, one enemy vehicle was destroyed and its occupants were killed.

4. Seven enemy personnel were killed, one 106-mm gun, two infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. One enemy personnel was killed and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Two others were killed and one machinegun emplacement was destroyed at the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 1 July 1988

Maritime Targets Raided

JN0207051688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 2 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In pursuit of our measures to besiege the oil supplies of the Iranian regime, our heroic Air Force flew the following two missions:

1. At 2200 [1800 GMT] yesterday, our aircraft raided a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective blow.

2. At 0008 today [2008 GMT on 1 July], our aircraft dealt an accurate and effective blow to a second large maritime target near the Iranian coast.

After accomplishing their missions, our aircraft returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

[Dated] July 1988

Communique No 3,242

JN0207183788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1749 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,242 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The activities of our victorious Armed Forces last night and today were as follows:

1. In continuation of the Muhammad Rasul Allah operations and further to our Communique No 3,238 issued on 30 June, the brave Saqr Quraysh forces in the valiant I Army Corps sector continued to exploit the great success they achieved on our lofty mountains on our northern border and to chase the enemy remnants last night, liberating mountain peaks: 1,998, 1,901, 1,782, 1,765, 1,755, 1,722, and 1,668 meters.

God bless the brave fighters of the I Army Corps and the brave Saqr Quraysh forces commanders, officers, and other ranks. Go for more victories with which we can break the back of the enemies of freedom and peace and defend the homeland of security, well-being, prosperity, and love.

An enemy drone, an infantry position, an observation post, and a machinegun were destroyed and a vehicle and two ammunition dumps were set on fire in several other places in the same sector.

2. In continuation of the siege on the Iranian regime's oil supplies, our heroic Air Force last night carried out two successful raids on two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast, scoring direct and effective hits. All our planes returned safely to base with God's care.

3. One enemy soldier was killed, an infantry position was destroyed, and an ammunition dump was set on fire in the II Army Corps central sector. An enemy drone was shot down and an ammunition dump was set on fire in the III Army Corps sector east of Basra.

4. An observation post was destroyed and an ammunition dump was set on fire in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. A medium machinegun and an observation post were destroyed at the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 July 1988.

More Northern Peaks Liberated

JN0307064488 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0614 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Statement by Iraqi military spokesman dated 3 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant forces in the I Army Corps northern sector continue to exploit the great victory they had scored in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operations and to purge our beloved land of the enemy's filth. The hero Saqr Quraysh forces liberated the following peaks on our northern borders last night: 1,855, 1,850, 1,770, 1,676, 1,665, 1,645, and 1,625 meters. May God bless your efforts, O hero men of our I Army Corps and of our valiant Saqr Quraysh forces. We thank God for His victory at all times.

[Dated] 3 July 1988

Communique No 3,243

JN0307165988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1602 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,243 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 3 July]

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Jul (INA)—Iraqi forces have managed to kill 12 Iranians and destroy infantry positions, a vehicle, and a 106-mm gun in the northern sector of the war front. According to Military Communique No 3,243 issued by the Armed Forces General Command today, the Iraqi Navy last night spotted eight small enemy boats and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast. Following is the text of the Armed Forces communique:

Communique No 3,243 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The activities of our valiant Armed Forces last night and today were as follows:

1. Our forces in the I Army Corps northern sector are continuing to build on the great victory they scored in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operations and to purge our dear land from the filth of the aggressors. The heroic Saqr Quraysh forces last night managed to free the following peaks at our northern borders: 1,855, 1,850, 1,770, 1,676, 1,665, 1,647, 1,625 meters.

At other positions in the same sector, 12 scoundrels were killed and infantry positions, a vehicle, and a vehicle-mounted 106-mm gun destroyed and its occupants killed.

May your efforts, our valiant men in the heroic I Corps and in the Saqr Quraysh, be blessed. Thank God for the victory which he made possible.

2. Two vehicles were burned, an infantry position was destroyed, and an ammunition dump blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Three other positions were destroyed and their occupants killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

3. Our valiant naval force last night spotted, at various intervals, eight small enemy boats, and forced them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

4. A number of Iranian civilians sought asylum at our forward units. They were evacuated to rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 3 July 1988

Communique No 3,244

JN0407164088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,244 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued to carry out their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Today, our Air Force flew 88 combat missions, inflicting further losses on the aggressors. Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The courageous helicopter gunship knights flew 51 combat missions, inflicting fresh losses on the enemy's personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, they returned with their helicopter gunships safely to base, praise be to God.

3. To continue exploiting the great victory achieved in the Muhammad Rasul Allah operations in the heroic I Army Corps sector, the brave Saqr Quraysh forces last night purged the following mountain peaks from the filth of the evil Khomeyniites: 1,686, 1,684, 1,580, 1,553, 1,548, 1,525, 1,485, 1,434, and 1,394 meters. They also took control of the central (Kimar) heights. In other areas in the same sector, the following was achieved: Through a resolute raid, a courageous force destroyed enemy positions opposite it, killing more than 25 scoundrels and capturing a scoundrel. The remaining scoundrels fled. Afterward, the force returned safely to base having destroyed a 60-mm mortar and an observation post, set ablaze and destroyed a large vehicle, and blown up an ammunition dump. May God bless the valiant men in our heroic I Army Corps.

4. One 106-mm gun and three assorted enemy machineguns were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. One enemy soldier was killed and one Poclain trench excavator was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. An observation tower was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One enemy 106-mm gun was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. The criminal enemy shelled with long-range artillery the (Bimalik) residential complex in the village of Qal'at Dizah last night. The enemy shelling wounded one woman and damaged one house. Speedy recovery to our wounded female, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 July 1988

Attack on Bushehr Denied

JN0407203088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2008 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jul (INA)—Iraq denied Iranian allegations that Iraqi planes bombed a residential area in Bushehr; that they broke the sound barrier over the cities of Isfahan, Baneh, and Saqqes; and that the Iraqi artillery shelled the Sar Dasht area today.

In a statement to INA this evening, a military spokesman said that these empty allegations are baseless and will not be of any use to the Iranian rulers who are trying to hide their defeats and abject failures.

Shamir Says U.S. Not To Blame for Gulf Incident

TA0407113188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that the United States should not be blamed for the downing of the Iranian airplane because the incident was caused by human error. The prime minister expressed sorrow for the downing of the plane and the loss of human lives. [passage omitted]

Peres Expresses Regret

TA0407111788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres says he regrets the incident in the Persian Gulf, but he told reporter Mark Weiss he does not think there will be any direct repercussions for Israel.

[Begin recording] [Peres] It was a very unfortunate event, probably a human error. I regret it very much, but it can happen.

[Weiss] Do you fear any Iranian retaliation against Israeli targets or maybe incursions on the northern border?

[Peres] I don't see how Israel is involved, and whatever the terrorists can do they are trying to do anyway. [end recording]

Rabin Comments on U.S. Talks on Missile Threat

TA0207113188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 2 Jun 88

[Text] On his return yesterday Defense Minister Rabin told reporter Le'a Zinder that American officials are aware of the need to take action.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The ample use of ground-to-ground missiles against centers of population that brought about thousands of casualties in Tehran and in Baghdad; the mere fact that it is the first time in the history of ground-to-ground missiles all over the world that they were used as the main means against centers of population with the purpose of bringing about killing and destruction in an indiscriminate way of civilian population, including women, children, and innocent people; second, that there was an ample use of chemical warfare means in the war between Iraq and Iran; and thirdly, the knowledge that at least three Arab countries have developed the capability to produce chemical warfare means, and also their capability to have means of delivery—like in air bombs, artillery shells, and maybe also in warheads of ground-to-ground missiles—brought the Americans to realize that Israel faces a new kind of threat in addition to the continuation of other means of fighting in the Middle East.

[Zinder] Do you consider that Israel is threatened by the Iraqi missiles as well as by Syrian missiles?

[Rabin] I believe that basically Israel is threatened by any Arab country that is in possession of ground-to-ground missiles that can be fired from their own soil and hit Israel. You have to bear in mind that since 1948 the Arab countries' air forces could not penetrate the air space of Israel in a meaningful way to drop any meaningful pay load of bombs on our centers of population. The air defense of Israel, the Israeli Air Force, proved that any attempt would be and will be foiled. Therefore, the push to acquiring of ground-to-ground missiles was based on the Arab countries' perception that this is a kind of an armament that once you push the button it reaches the target within the technological limitation of the given ground-to-ground missile. Therefore, no doubt that it gives them more reasons to do it than in the past.

[Zinder] Does the visit of a Soviet general responsible for chemical warfare in Syria strike you as being significant in the context perhaps of the Soviet Union's attempt to appear with a newly moderate image?

[Rabin] I don't know details about this visit, but I learned in my visit in the United States that this general has never left the territory of the Soviet Union and the territories of the Warsaw Pace countries. The first visit by him outside these territories was to Syria.

[Zinder] Did this subject come up in your conversations in Washington?

[Rabin] It was mentioned.

[Zinder] Mr Rabin, have the Americans shown willingness to take operational steps in order to attempt to stop the proliferation of the new sophisticated missiles in the Middle East?

[Rabin] No operational discussions took place. I learned from the secretary of state that in the meeting of the Seven in Toronto the issue of proliferation of ground-to-ground missile technology was brought up, and an understanding was reached that the Seven will prevent any proliferation of technology to other countries in the field of ground-to-ground missile development.

[Zinder] What is the significance of the agreement reached between you and the Americans on the antiballistic missile?

[Rabin] A two fold meaning. On the one hand it shows that the cooperation within the strategic cooperation structure that was agreed on in 1983 that has developed between the United States and Israel goes on. Second, there is a growing understanding for the Israeli defense needs, including assistance on the part of the United States in many fields, financial, supplies, technology. Three, recognition of Israel's technological capability to prove in the Arrow program the feasibility of the interception of tactical ballistic missiles of a range of less than 500 km because today the United States is committed by the INF agreement with the Soviet Union.

[Zinder] Mr Rabin, did you find that the intifada [uprising] and Israeli policy in the territories has affected the friendship between America and Israel?

[Rabin] No doubt that the phenomena of confrontation between civilians—including women, children—and the uniformed forces of Israel, did not bring real advantages to Israel, to put it mildly. At the same time, if you look at the statement that was issued by the White House after the meeting between President Reagan and myself, you will realize that on the one hand there is a recognition on the part of the U.S. Government, I believe of the Senate, the American people, that Israel is the government in the territories. As a government in the territories we have to bring about the existence of law and order, and no doubt, whenever it is needed, to use force.

At the same time, there was an expression on the part of the White House statement that dialogue—efforts to achieve a political solution to the problems—must be conducted parallel to our coping by force with the violence in the territories, and expectations that the way we will do it will fit what the American people, the U.S. Government, believes should be the norms and the values that Israel has to use. [end recording]

Agreement Heightens 'Awareness'

TA0207052888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the uprising in the territories played a secondary role in his Washington talks. He said the White House understood that violence must be met with force, while on the other hand the administration responded with reserve over irregularities by IDF soldiers in dealing with the uprising.

On the danger of the Arab surface-to-surface missiles, Mr Rabin said the United States was particularly disturbed by the Saudi deal with the PRC because it was done in secret. Mr Rabin said George Shultz told him that the seven industrial countries decided in their Toronto meeting to take all the necessary measures to prevent the distribution of technologies to build surface-to-surface missiles to additional countries.

On the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on co-developing anti-tactical ballistic missiles, the defense minister said the move has two implications: strengthening Israel's defenses and an increase in United States awareness of the danger being faced by Israel.

USSR 'Not Pleased' With Syria

TA0407080788 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 4 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Text] The Soviet Union is not pleased about the intention of Syria, Libya, and other Arab countries to acquire sophisticated missiles. This was the impression Defense Minister Yitzhaq Shamir received during his talks with leading U.S. administration officials.

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 4 July in a page three report by Moti Basoq adds: "I never said there was a Chinese-Syrian missile agreement, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin argued in yesterday's Cabinet session. Rabin confirmed that Libya has been holding contacts with the PRC on the purchase of M-9 missiles."]

Minister Rabin conveyed this impression to the Cabinet during a briefing on his visit to the United States.

In Rabin's opinion, the Soviet Union is not interested in escalating the arms race in the Middle East or introducing new sophisticated weapons, particularly missiles, since this could have an adverse effect on its attempts to attain rapprochement and detente with the United States, and could thwart the nuclear disarmament agreements. Minister Rabin added that the United States would neither reduce nor increase military aid to Israel. Nevertheless, the defense minister noted, the agreement granting us privileged status as a non-NATO country opens opportunities for Israel's military industries, giving them better financial terms.

Middle East Missile Deployment Detailed

TA0207101788 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p 14

[Article by Alex Fishman: "The Civilian Suddenly Finds He Is Surrounded by Missiles"]

[Excerpts] There is an organized hysteria surrounding the question of missiles in the Middle East. The superpowers are dismantling tactical missiles while in the Middle East there is a missile festival. On the eve of his visit to the United States the defense minister made the missile issue the main component of his information campaign. It has become the Israeli answer to questions about the uprising in the territories, and also provides a good background for bargaining over the amount of U.S. defense grants.

It is the Israeli civilian who remains perplexed because he has suddenly discovered that he is surrounded by missiles. On the eve of the Knesset elections, everybody sees in the missiles issue what he is interested in seeing. The leaders of the main political blocs feel a need to make tough declarations on the security dangers involved in the missile threat. By following this trend it is easy to lose all perspective.

Missiles in development for the 1990's:

Iraq—('Abas). Range 800 km.

Egypt—(Condor-2) or by its Egyptian name (Badr 2,000). Range 750-800 km. Joint Argentinian-Iraqi development.

Syria—M-9 manufactured in PRC. Belongs to the M-type short range missiles being developed in the PRC. The missile will have a 600 km range. It will probably be operational in the PRC army next year (according to the Tel Aviv University Institute for Strategic Studies).

Libya—Libya has announced that it will provide a $2 billion fund for the development of a new generation of missiles based on the Brazilian (Sonda) space project which will have a range of about 900 km.

Israel—Development of the upgraded Jericho-2 with a 1,450 km range (according to the IBR) [acronym not further expanded]. [passage omitted]

The distribution of surface-to-surface missiles in the Middle East and the Arab world:

Country	Type of Missile(1)	Number of Launchers(2)	Range
Syria	Frog	24	70 km
	Scud	18	300 km
	SS-21	36	80 km
	(Spal)(3)	unknown	about 450 km
Iraq	Frog	9	70 km
	Scud	20	300 km
	Husayn—(upgraded Scud)	unknown	600 km
Egypt	Scud	9	300 km
	Frog	12	70 km
Libya	Scud	80	300 km
	Frog	48	70 km
Saudi Arabia	CSS-2	24	3,000 km
YAR	SS-21	4	80 km
PDRY	Frog	12	70 km
	Scud	12	300 km
Algeria	Frog	25	70 km
Iran	Scud	unknown	300 km
	(Ogev—Iran developed Frog)	unknown	40 km
	Silkworm(3)	unknown	[no range as published]
Israel	Lance	12	75 km
	Jericho-1	unknown	450-500 km
	Jericho-2	unknown	820 km

(1) According to information provided by the Institute for Strategic Studies—Tel Aviv University. The London Institute for Strategic Studies. Western newspapers.

(2) According to U.S. intelligence each Soviet launcher has 5 to 6 missiles.

(3) Surface-to-sea missiles, but they can be launched from sea-to-sea. A Silkworm missile was fired from the Iranian coast to the Kuwaiti coast.

Egyptian Envoy Interviewed on Bilateral Ties

TA0207155688 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 1 Jul 88 p 6

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni by Pinhas 'Inbari and Uri Horowitz; date, place not given]

[Text] [Question] Six months ago President Mubarak came out with his peace initiative. At what stage is this initiative at now?

[Basyuni] President Mubarak's activities were the main driving force behind the Shultz initiative. His talks in America and Europe stirred the United States to take political action to attain a peaceful solution in the Middle East.

The philosophy behind the initiative is that the present situation cannot continue. If there is no movement in the direction of peace, the region will be ravaged by conflicts and escalating violence. There is a Palestinian problem, and a just solution must be found to attain a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The Palestinian problem lies at the core of the Israeli-Arab conflict. It is thus very important to keep working toward a solution so that we are not overtaken by events leading us to violence, escalation, or even worse.

[Question] On the eve of his latest visit to Egypt, Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, told 'AL HAMISHMAR that Egypt has an important role to play in finding a Palestinian interlocutor for Israel within the territories, with the PLO's tacit consent. Was this matter discussed during his visit to Cairo?

[Basyuni] You know that the Palestinian problem can only be solved through dialogue with the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. Tamir's proposal, as published in the press, speaks about a preparatory period during which talks to fill the political void would be conducted with the Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. As you know, all Palestinians—or the vast majority of them—identify with the PLO. Most of them, both "inside" and "outside" the territories, say the PLO is their sole legitimate representative. Tamir's proposal speaks of filling the political vacuum until after the elections in Israel.

[Question] It seems Tamir was speaking about having Egypt persuade the PLO to give its tacit approval to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in the territories.

[Basyuni] What we have seen thus far is that nobody, no local leaders in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is prepared to speak on behalf of the Palestinians unless they receive the PLO's green light or blessing. Even the most moderate ones in the West Bank and Gaza Strip refuse to talk unless they receive PLO approval. Local leaders, both in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, refuse to talk for the PLO. A dialogue which would not substitute for one with the PLO must open with the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip—but this does not mean that local leaders can enter negotiations with the Israeli side without the PLO's approval. Those who conduct a dialogue with Israel would not replace the PLO. Having said that, there is no choice other than conducting a dialogue with Israel. After all, how can one solve the problem without speaking to the side that occupies the land?

Four main protagonists should participate in the solution of the problem: the chief player is Israel because it holds the land; the second is Jordan because of the strong historical link between the two banks of the Jordan River, and without Jordan there can be no solving the Palestinian problem; the third is the PLO, which is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Consequently, the problem cannot be solved without it. Any attempt to neutralize the PLO will prove futile, since we see that no Palestinian is prepared to speak on behalf of the Palestinians without the PLO's consent. The fourth protagonist is Egypt, which has a prominent role to play because it talks to all the sides, has very good relations with the United States and the Soviet Union, with the PLO and Jordan, and it maintains ties of peace with Israel. It has a fundamental role in budging the peace process in anticipation of the international conference and the international umbrella to be provided by the five permanent members of the Security Council.

Contacts between Egypt and the PLO have never stopped; it was only recently that Hani al-Hasan visited Cairo. There is a PLO office in Cairo, and not too long ago 'Arafat and President Mubarak met in Ethiopia. At the same time, contacts continue with Jordan. Husayn and Mubarak frequently consult each other on the telephone in order to coordinate positions. Hence, the Egyptian dialogue with the PLO and Jordan has never stopped.

All Arab summits, not just the one in Algiers, have agreed to solve the problem through peaceful means, through an international conference, and this includes the radical Arab countries.

There are three reasons why the international conference is important: to encourage both sides to join the process, to give good advice to the negotiating parties when they run into a stalemate, and to provide guarantees once the sides reach a solution and agreements. These are the foundations necessary to come to a solution of the Palestinian problem.

[Question] Has Egypt encouraged the PLO to follow this direction in practice so that the same kind of people who conferred with the visiting Japanese minister would also talk to Israel about the pressing issues related to the intifada [uprising]?

[Basyuni] Egypt will not pursue any issue to which the Palestinians object. In other words, if the Palestinians are interested, Egypt will encourage them, but we will not encourage them if they perceive it as harming their interests. Our position is clear: We want to arrive at a solution of the Palestinian problem that is acceptable to the Palestinians who are represented by their sole legitimate representative. If the Palestinians feel the solution is not just, it will not last. To attain a permanent solution it must be just. The Palestinians are the ones who must be convinced that a just solution to their problem will be found. I cannot force them to think that. I am like a big brother who listens to their problem and tries to help them. My concern and strategy are geared at attaining a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

[Question] What developments do you foresee in the Arab world in the wake of the Algiers summit? Will it move in the direction of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination or will each side continue to work on its own? What will Egypt's role be in the wake of the summit?

[Basyuni] The way we see it, the Algiers summit focused on a solution of the Palestinian problem through peaceful means. It turned in the direction of an international conference, and did not close the door on a peaceful solution. There is no clause in the resolutions that closes the door on such a solution. Based on this premise, we are still waiting for the Israeli side to agree to an international conference, after which the Egyptian initiative will start rolling.

When we said the Palestinians were free to set up their own delegation, I think it would be right to have coordination between Jordan and the PLO because this would provide an international balance. Egypt is striving to bridge the differences between Jordan and the PLO so as to reach a starting point for an international conference. Jordan and the Palestinians are fated to share the same destiny, having the same roots and sharing an ancient history. Therefore, it is important for the PLO and Jordan to get closer to each other so as to promote the international conference.

[Question] It is no secret you are not pleased with the way Israel has been handling the intifada.

[Basyuni] History proves that peoples' rights cannot be ignored. The situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot be calmed by military means, tempers cannot be soothed by arms. On the contrary, the more military measures are enforced, the more people become determined to fight back. What is the solution? There is no choice other than to give the inhabitants hope for the future. The solution cannot be merely a military one, it must be political. People must be given hope, real and serious progress must be made toward a solution of the Palestinian problem. Anybody who thinks the status quo in the West Bank and Gaza Strip can continue is wrong. A certain situation can be imposed by force for a limited period of time, but it cannot last and it cannot bring peace. If we look for a genuine way to a durable peace, we must turn to political action.

Israel is always asking: Where is the Arab partner? And I say: Where is the Israeli partner to peace? First of all, let all of Israel agree to an international conference, accept the Security Council Resolution 242 formula of "land for peace" as stipulated at Camp David. This formula also applies to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and not just to the Sinai. When the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip hear Israel talk about these principles and they know for certain that all of Israel agrees to these principles for the solution of their problem, the intifada may die down.

I would like to put Israel at ease. When I call for the implementation of the principle of land for peace, I also say that Israel has the right to live within secure borders. Israel must live within its recognized borders, which are the 1967 borders.

I want to put Israelis at ease and tell them that holding on to the land will not guarantee security, certainly not with the appearance of sophisticated modern weapons, such as the surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 3,000 km. You say that Stinger missiles fired from the West Bank can shoot down airplanes taking off from Lod. But planes can take off safely from Elat, which is situated at the convergence of the borders of three countries: Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. You see, security is not attained only by force. The only thing that can guarantee security is peace.

[Question] Egypt has interceded with the Israeli authorities on behalf of the Palestinians about problems related to the intifada, such as your reported meeting in jail with two administrative detainees, Radwan Abu 'Ayyash and Faysal al-Husayni. Are you generally pleased with Israel's compliance with your requests?

[Basyuni] You know and the world knows that Egypt's true objective is to attain peace. I do not believe in any belligerent steps or in taking any action against the peace accords. Egypt honors its international commitments. I consider the Israeli-Egyptian peace the first step on the way to realizing comprehensive peace. All my actions on this issue are guided by my striving for a comprehensive peace. This is my strategy. I perceive the Gaza Strip and West Bank as occupied areas, as does the whole world, including the United States. Why do you ignore this basic fact and call them "administered territories?" The entire world calls them "occupied territories"—and that is a fact. How can you wish for peace if you hold on to occupied land? That is incompatible with peace. What kind of peace do you want? A peace whereby you continue to occupy the land? Who will agree to that? Not only will the Palestinians not accept it, neither will the Americans, who are the greatest power supporting Israel; certainly no Egyptian or European will. The attempts to "fool around" with the problem so as to gain time will also be to no avail.

[Question] Let us move to the question of Tabah. Reports say the solution emerging is that Tabah would revert to Egyptian sovereignty while Israel would have economic access to the area, but that Egypt is opposed to such a solution.

[Basyuni] The problem of Tabah need not to have been created to begin with, since it is obvious that Tabah was always in Egyptian territory. I was an officer in the Egyptian Army and I served long tours of duty in that area. When we look at all the international maps dating back to 1922, we see that Tabah was part of Egypt. Therefore, the matter is as clear as day: Tabah is Egyptian. The panel of arbiters will issue its verdict in August or September. Everybody knows that they will rule in Egypt's favor, because the Egyptian arguments are very strong.

At the same time, the United States believes it would be better to reach a settlement without the intervention of the arbiters; this way the two sides would be satisfied and there would be no problems in executing the resolution. Consequently, Abraham Sofaer proposed a solution whereby Egypt would have sovereignty over the area, while Israelis would be given easier access to the region. Our position was clear: We have no objections to talking to you, on the condition that the talks are based on the U.S. initiative. I accept some of its points and reject others, but the talks should be based on the premise of Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah. After all, it is inconceivable that you should give me sovereignty with one hand and take it back with the other by means of measures which would devoid the sovereignty of its significance.

The Israeli side requested a postponement of the arbiters' ruling, asking that the decision not be published on the scheduled date. We said: After we decided on arbitration, why put off the decision? We had pledged not to bring up the subject of Tabah for 3 years. After having waited for over 3 years, now we do not want to reopen the issue and go back to square one. There are 2 months left before August, so let us use talk at that time to talk.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry's Robi Sabel went to Washington on 22 June and met with Dr Nabil al-'Arabi and Abraham Sofaer. He later reported to Shamir, Peres, and Rabin so that they could make a decision. Hence, the ball is in the Israeli court. Who says Egypt does not want to talk? It does! But it wants to have a basis for the opening of negotiations. This is not by way of preconditions, but just a "basis." The decision of the arbiters is that sovereignty belongs to us, but I am interested in arrangements which would encourage tourism without impinging on Egyptian sovereignty over its land.

[Question] The United States and the Soviet Union have reportedly come very close on the question of the Middle East.

[Basyuni] We foresee great progress as far as the extent of the understanding between Washington and Moscow on the question of the Middle East is concerned. The meetings between the Soviet and U.S. sides as well as those with the Israeli side attest to this progress. Meetings will be held in July between Vladimir Polyakov and Richard Murphy and between Shevardnadze and Shultz, following which there may be another summit meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev before the elections. This may lead to important developments. The current CPSU conference will decide how things will develop.

[Question] Do you have an idea which points have already been agreed and which remain in dispute?

[Basyuni] There is agreement on the principle that a peaceful solution must be attained through an international conference which is the only means of promoting a solution. Differences remain over the identity of the participants, and this matter will be clarified soon after the Murphy-Polyakov meeting.

I would like to stress to the Israeli reader: I do not want only to take from you, I also want to give. I will take from you land, and I will give you peace. Peace is what will guarantee security for you and your children. Peace is very important to the Israeli people, it is more important than territories. The territories no longer have any significance as security zones. Modern missiles have a range of 3,000 km and they are very accurate. I have stressed time and again that any solution involves two elements: the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, and a guarantee of security for Israel. I repeat: I will take territories and I will give peace, and I will honor all international commitments. We have shown that we honor our commitments.

[Question] What are the national rights of the Palestinians: an independent state or a confederation with Jordan?

[Basyuni] The right to self-determination will be decided at the negotiating table. I am sure that 'Arafat wants peace. I wonder: Why do you refuse to talk to 'Arafat? Let us sit and talk to iron out all the questions, but do not miss this opportunity! 'Arafat is very interested in finding a political solution to the Palestinian problem, I know that. I know 'Arafat personally, and he really and truly wants peace. I wonder why you refuse to talk to him. One always talks to enemies. After all, I myself, Muhammad Basyuni, was your enemy and fought you. You were prepared to talk to Egypt, which was your enemy. Today I consider myself a staunch peace-seeker and I am the ambassador of a former enemy country.

Excavation Sparks Unrest in Jerusalem's Old City

'Serious Riot Raging'

TA0307072088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The Old City and Temple Mount gates are closed due to a serious riot raging on the Via Dolorosa. The riot broke out because of excavation work carried out by the Religious Affairs Ministry. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this morning staff employees began an excavation project at the corner of Via Dolorosa and Nuns Street. The project would link that site with the tunnel dug under the Western Wall. The Temple Mount muezzin began chanting inflammatory slogans and called on the local residents to stop the work with their blood. In the course of the skirmish, the police were pelted with rocks and bottles. The police used large quantities of tear gas to quell the riot. Many were hurt by the gas and were evacuated from the site.

Schoolchildren from the Al-Rashidiyah school in East Jerusalem also staged a riot. Policemen dispersed them with tear gas. Our correspondent reports that there is now another scuffle near Herod's Gate and that rocks are being thrown at the policemen.

The Religious Affairs Ministry's excavation project has been stopped and the equipment is being removed from the site. The vehicles used by the ministry employees have been damaged.

Old City Walls Closed

TA0307082388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The Old City walls are still closed to all except members of the security forces. This is because of the riot on Via Dolorosa. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that youths are still intermittently throwing rocks and bottles at policemen. The latter are responding with tear gas and rubber bullets. The police have disconnected the loudspeakers used by the Temple Mount muezzin to incite the locals to stage riots.

The disturbance broke out at 0700 this morning when Religious Affairs Ministry employees began to dig a tunnel from Via Dolorosa to the Western Wall tunnel. The workers and equipment have returned to the excavation site, and work may resume within a few hours.

Another riot was staged at Gehenna. Policemen detained three youths who threw stones at them. This developed into a fray, which was subsequently dispersed with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Most of the East Jerusalem schools have been closed following the stonethrowing incident at Al-Rashidiyah school. One female student has been detained. Parents came to take their children back from school to prevent their being hurt in the scuffle. [passage omitted]

The curfew on the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was lifted this morning. The curfew was imposed yesterday following an attack on an IDF squad that left one soldier injured by a rock. [passage omitted]

Gates Reopen; Quiet Restored

TA0307092588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Following a long riot, calm has been restored on Via Dolorosa and the Old City gates have reopened. Large numbers of police and Border Police forces are still deployed in the city, however, to maintain order. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that representatives of the police, the Jerusalem municipality, the regional archeologist's office, and the Religious Affairs Ministry are currently meeting with members of the Supreme Muslim Council to make arrangements for further Religious Affairs Ministry excavations. It was the beginning of this work that triggered the riot this morning.

Injuries, Arrests in Riots

TA0307115888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Stones and bottles were thrown at policemen during today's riots in East Jerusalem, and the latter retaliated with tear gas. Many rioters were hurt by the gas. At the end of the riots it was agreed that the excavation work on Via Dolorosa would be postponed by a few days to enable Waqf officials to calm the situation.

There were also riots and stonethrowing incidents elsewhere in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that one policeman was slightly injured, and seven rioters were arrested. Three passengers aboard a bus operating on the no. 25 route were also injured slightly.

In other incidents in East Jerusalem, the windows of two buses, a private car, and a police patrol car were shattered.

Minister on Excavations

TA0307161788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer by moderators Dan Shilon and Goni Savir—live]

[Excerpt] [Shilon] We have Religious Affairs Minister Zvulun Hammer on the line. Good evening, sir.

[Hammer] Good evening.

[Shilon] You are the minister in charge of the work that was attempted today near the Western Wall. The Jerusalem mayor said today that the timing chosen for the work is unfortunate. What would you tell him?

[Hammer] First of all, I would tell him that the timing was coordinated with the Jerusalem municipality, the police, and the Education Ministry. All these elements are part of a joint council which decided to conduct the excavations now. The consideration behind this decision was that Jerusalem is a sovereign Jewish city, and we may do things we consider necessary.

[Shilon] There are Arab residents there as well. Were they in on the deliberations?

[Hammer] Well, we did nothing to harm them. All we did for the last 19 years was conduct excavations along the Western Wall so as to expose all of it. We have discovered a cave dating back to the Second Temple, and it is now time to complete the work there by opening some 1.5 meters of it. There was no reason why this should harm the non-Jewish population of Jerusalem.

[Savir] Minister Hammer, did you not feel that in view of the recent events, the operation should have been coordinated with the local residents or their representatives as well?

[Hammer] Look, we felt—and I still do. [changes thought] I mean, we should consider whether we are still sovereign here at all. I do not know. All I know is that there is extraordinary sensitivity to everything concerning Temple Mount, and there is sensitivity in general. I usually act according to this. In this instance, however, do we need permission to conduct Jewish archeological excavations within Jerusalem itself? It seems wrong to me. I believe the riots in all of Israel, including Jerusalem, which are a phenomenon we do not accept, serve as an excuse for various things, such as the present case. I think that if we believe something should be done, it is our duty to do it.

[Savir] We are sensitive to the sacred places. Are we also sensitive to the places holy to other religions?

[Hammer] Of course, of course, of course. In what way have we harmed a place holy to another religion? Nobody has been as scrupulous as we have been in taking care of places sacred to the other religions, and no one is as sensitive to this issue as we are. We take the utmost caution when dealing with them. We do have a controversy with the Jews in Israel concerning Temple Mount, but we are exercising the utmost caution. We are dealing here with a location north of Temple Mount, which is in Jerusalem and has nothing to do with any sacred place. All we have here is a street where stairs into a Hasmonaean cave have to be opened, the cave is already there.

[Shilon] But Mr Hammer, you are describing the facts as if they were detached from the events of the last 6 months.

[Hammer] What do you suggest? That we refrain from...

[Shilon, interrupting] I suggest nothing. I am asking whether in the present situation, when a small match can ignite a large fire, would it not be more appropriate to postpone the work for a while, or perhaps coordinate it with the Arab residents, even if this is in fact your sovereign territory and you have authority to act there?

[Hammer] The matches and the fires are not our doing. Unfortunately, they have been ignited throughout the country in the past 6 months without any connection with our deeds or misdeeds. Therefore, this is not the reason for...[changes thought]. Perhaps what you have said is true. Perhaps they do arrive in the mosques on Fridays and tell the people to go out and do things, because this is what the leaflet tells them to do. What we did was coordinated with the Jerusalem municipality—I even have it in writing—with the Antiquities Division of the Education Ministry, and with all the other elements responsible for this matter. We considered the issue together. To summarize, I do not think today's riots were justified. We performed excavations several months ago, and no riots occurred then.

[Savir] Minister Hammer, what is going to happen next time you decide to excavate? Will it be tomorrow morning? Will you coordinate it? Will you continue as if nothing has happened?

[Hammer] Look, today we dug up the part we intended to, but did not open the cave. It was agreed that the latter will be decided at a later stage. I hope, however, that the decision will not be taken on the assumption that we are not allowed to operate in Jerusalem as we need to, if it harms neither other religions nor the local residents. We are talking about Jerusalem's municipal territory, and not a private plot or non-Jewish public land. [passage omitted]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

30 Jun West Bank Incidents

TA0107130588 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Jul 88 pp 2, 21

[Report by Yehuda Litani and Andy Court]

[Text] Two Nabulus youths were shot and wounded by troops and several others were arrested yesterday in various locations by police who fired tear gas to disperse stone-throwing demonstrators.

Nabulus sources said last night that the wounded youths were demonstrating at the funeral of Muhammad Sha'bilu, 35, who died in Nabulus on Wednesday. Military sources said his death was due to a heart attack, but residents maintained he had died from inhaling tear gas. The military sources also said that the demonstrating youths belonged to the Fatah youth movement, the Shabiba.

In Ramallah, 'Arafat 'Awad Hanani, 20, who was shot during a demonstration two weeks ago, died at the local hospital yesterday. Hanani was from the nearby village of Bayt Furik.

In Tulkarm, the curfew continued yesterday for the 26th successive day. Local sources said that most telephone lines in town had been cut.

In East Jerusalem, police fired tear gas to disperse demonstrating school girls who were stoning vehicles and police.

Five Arabs were treated at Al-Maqasid Hospital after a clash with police and Border Police in Al-Tur on the Mount of Olives last night, in which demonstrators threw stones and police fired tear gas. A policeman was also lightly injured in the clash.

Police reported no injuries in the capital during the day, but windows of at least two Egged buses were shattered.

The police spokesman said that the trouble in Jerusalem began at 7:40 a.m., when pupils of the Taljiyah girls school in East Jerusalem began to demonstrate and throw stones at passing vehicles. Police used tear gas to break up the protest. At the Sanina girls school, police also fired tear gas to disperse demonstrating pupils. Two pupils were arrested at a girls school in the Old City's Sa'adiya' neighbourhood.

Other demonstrators threw empty bottles at an Egged bus on Sultan Sulayman Street, causing no damage or injuries. The passengers of an Arab bus threw stones out of the bus windows at an Israeli taxi on the Shu'afat road in northern Jerusalem. The cab was slightly damaged and six suspects were arrested, the police spokesman said.

In the afternoon, stones shattered the windows of a bus carrying tourists on Hanevi'im Street near the Damascus Gate, and an Egged bus on Salah al-Din Street.

A clash also occured between stone-throwers and police at the Lutheran Technical School in northern Jerusalem yesterday morning. Youths hurled stones at the police for about 90 minutes, Palestinian sources said. The police brought in armoured vehicles and entered the school to break up the disturbance, they added. Tractors from the municipality were called in to clean the stones off the road near the school.

Arab Woman Dies of Wounds

TA0107182288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] Fatima Sahwil, 24, of Abu 'Awn died today at the Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. She had been wounded by IDF gunfire about 1 and ½ months ago during riots staged in her village.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that quiet prevailed today in Judaea and Samaria.

Youth Killed in Janin Riot

TA0207113588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] There were disturbances in Samaria today and a young male Janin resident was killed during a riot. According to a hospital report he was shot in the head. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF is investigating the report. The body was snatched from the hospital by relatives.

Masked youths tried to incite school children in Janin to demonstrate in the streets. An IDF force dispersed the inciters. Afterward unrest started in the refugee camp near Janin and a curfew was imposed on the camp.

This morning, there were also disturbances in the Jalazun refugee camp and the town of Qalqilyah. Curfews were imposed there as well.

The Military Government last night released six members of a medical delegation from the Nabulus area who were detained in Qabatiyah. They came there to extend medical assistance. A riot was taking place at the time and a Border Police force detained the delegation on suspicion of incitement, but released them after questioning.

Our correspondent reports that there were four doctors, a nurse, and an orderly in the team.

1-2 Jul Incidents Summarized

TA0207193688 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] A car belonging to Israel television's Arabic-language program was severely damaged today in Ramallah when stones were thrown at it as the crew was filming a riot in the city. Nobody was hurt. [passage omitted]

A tourist bus was pelted with stones in Bethlehem. Two tourists were slightly injured by glass shards.

Riots also took place in Qalqilyah. A firebomb was thrown at a military vehicle, but there were no casualties. Several suspects were arrested.

An IDF soldier sustained slight head injuries today when a stone was thrown at a military patrol in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip.

In Jerusalem, the polce used tear gas to disperse students who blocked the road to Shu'fat with stones and flew several PLO flags. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov adds that a garage was set on fire in the Shu'fat refugee camp last night. The police are investigating whether the arson was motivated by nationalist or criminal reasons. The garage was damaged.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 2 July reports that "A firebomb was thrown last night at a car at the Hizma junction in northern Jerusalem, but nobody was hurt and no damage was caused." The 1900 GMT newscast adds that "A Border Police unit this evening arrested three youngsters who threw stones at it in East Jerusalem's Al-Su'aydiyah quarter."]

Youth Injured by Stones

TA0307042688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] A 12-year old boy from Qarne Shomron was injured in the face by rocks thrown at the car he was in near the village of 'Azzun yesterday. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the boy was hospitalized and required stitches. His jawbone may be fractured. The curfew imposed on the Janin and Al-Jalazun refugee camps continues, while the curfew imposed on Qalqilyah following disturbances has been lifted.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 3 July adds: "A Palestinian was shot in the leg last night after he refused to obey soldiers' orders to stop. Our reporter says the Palestinian tried to escape from an IDF patrol in the Jericho area. The soldiers first fired in the air as a warning and then at the man's legs. He received medical treatment in Jericho and was later transferred to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem."]

Tour Bus Stoned in Bethlehem

TA0307075788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In Bethlehem, two women were slightly injured when rocks were thrown at their tour bus in Nativity Square. Palestinian sources said troops fired tear gas and rubber bullets to break up a crowd of pupils demonstrating at their school near the Church of the Nativity. They said the school was ordered closed. Masked rioters hurled petrol bombs and bottles at troops in the local market, but there were no casualties, military sources said. [passage omitted]

A senior military source last night denied a report published on Friday that the authorities were considering replacing the grey and black licence plates in the

Gaza Strip with the black and yellow plates used in Israel. He dismissed the suggestion that such a change would reduce the number of attacks against Israeli vehicles in the strip.

1002 'Incidents' in 3-Months

TA0307175088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1630 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] In the past 3 months some 1,002 incidents related to the intifada [uprising] have occurred inside the Green Line. There were 362 incidents in which stones and other objects were hurled, 51 incidents of Molotov cocktails being thrown, 42 incidents of tire burning, 126 incidents of roads being blocked, 210 attempted arsons, and 89 incidents in which PLO flags were flown. Most of the incidents occurred in East Jerusalem.

In the last 3 months, 97 persons were injured in Israel following intifada events.

Our Jerusalem-based police affairs correspondent Shlomi Stein adds that only 308 Arab policemen serve on the police force in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, although the number of approved positions there is 841. About 140 Arabs, who are currently being trained for the police, will be stationed in the territories.

'Terrorist' Squads Captured

TA0407191388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The security forces recently uncovered some terrorist organizations in the initial stages of organization in Judaea and Samaria. The members of these would-be terrorist squads are suspected of attacking Israeli targets and hurling Molotov cocktails at public transportation vehicles and IDF patrols. They also tried to harm people whom they suspected of collaborating with Israel.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this evening the security forces demolished two houses in the village of Sinjil in the Ramallah District and boarded up two other houses. The houses belong to squad members who carried out several attacks, including a firebomb attack on a bus traveling to the settlement of Shilo.

West Bank Incidents Reported

TA0407050188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpts] There were several incidents in the territories last night. In Qabatiyah in northern Samaria a Palestinian was wounded when he attacked a border policeman with an iron bar. A Voice of Israel reporter says the policeman fired at the attacker, lightly wounding him in the leg.

Also last night, two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle traveling near the entrance to the settlement of Yaqir in Samaria. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. [passage omitted]

At 'Azzun near Qalqilyah several Israeli cars were damaged by stones yesterday.

The police are to increase their forces in Jerusalem following yesterday's disturbances in the Old City during an attempt to clean an ancient water tunnel near the Temple Mount. Police Commissioner David Kraus told reporters yesterday the police will carry out an investigation to decide whether charges should be submitted against the muezzin on the Temple Mount on suspicion of inciting the violence. [passage omitted]

There was an attempt to set a car alight last night in the Jerusalem quarter of Abu Tor where both Jews and Arabs reside. The arsonist was not identified, and the police are investigating.

Papers Comment on Downing of Iranian Airliner

Action Termed 'Murder'

JN0407091288 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Jul 88 p 22

["Every Day" column by Tariq Masarwah: "No to Tehran and No to the Downing of a Civilian Plane"]

[Text] We reject and oppose the Iranian spirit of invasion and reject Tehran's methods of hijacking civilian planes, planting Kuwaiti cafes with bombs, and seizing innocent hostages. However, as Arabs carrying our glorious nation's heritage and morality, we reject the downing of a civilian plane carrying hundreds of passengers into the Arabian Gulf waters. The Iraqi Air Force has always been able to prevent the landing or taking off of any Iranian civilian plane from all airports in Iran. However, the Iraqi Air Force has not done and will not do that.

When the Soviets shot down a civilian airliner that was flying over sensitive areas inside Soviet territory and after clear warnings and firing warning shots, the United States became furious at the Soviets and the issue was submitted to the UN Security Council. The Jordanian representative then voted for denouncing the incident "although Jordan had 27 reasons to vote against the U.S. draft resolution" and although Jordan appreciated the Soviet Union's friendship and constant backing of the Arab cause. We do not know what the Americans would do if the Iranian UN representative took the U.S. representative's speeches on the Korean airliner incident and read them as they are.

Yes, enmity has limits, war has limits, and military arrogance has limits. Yes, the defeat of the Iranian aggresion is a sacred objective, and the removal of its black regime desired. However, this does not make us accept the downing of a civilian airliner, even if it flew over a U.S. war vessel, or even the Arizona desert. This will never make us pleased with the sight of the picking of hundreds of bodies from the waters of the Gulf. Yes, we say no to the U.S. military arrogance and no to the downing of the Iranian civilian plane. The action is cold-blooded murder.

Incident a 'Premeditated Act'

JN0507080888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jul 88 p 14

["An Issue and an Opinion" column: "The Tragedy of the Iranian Plane and Human Rights"]

[Text] The tragedy of the Iranian civilian airliner brought down by a U.S. missile in the Strait of Hormuz is part of the tragedy afflicting the peoples of the Arabian Gulf as a result of the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war and the large-scale U.S. military intervention in the area. We do not believe the attack on the Iranian plane by the U.S. cruiser—which is capable of distinguishing between civilian and military targets—is anything other than a premeditated act intended to give the Iranians a new pretext to continue their mad war against Iraq and to escalate the shipping crisis in the Arabian Gulf.

From the time the United States concentrated its big ships in the Gulf to this day we do not recall it taking a single step to stop the destructive war or to resolve the shipping problem in the area. The U.S. efforts were confined to protecting the convoys of oil tankers to the United States and its Western allies, and consequently the U.S. military presence in the Gulf was harmful and dangerous. The tragedy of the Iranian plane is one of its many harmful effects.

Regardless of the fact that Iran bears the responsibility for the continuation of the mad war and for continued tension in the Gulf, the United States has played a big part in providing the reasons for the continuation of the war and the tension.

Regardless of all that, the tragedy of the Iranian plane brought about by the United States is an ugly crime that shocks mankind. The United States had for long sung and continues to sing the praises of human rights and claims to be anxious to protect them.

Had this human tragedy been caused by non-Americans, the U.S. Administration would have raised a mighty hue and cry, human rights would have had the pride of place and reached the zenith of their glory in the U.S. media and among U.S. political circles. The U.S. Administration would have found in the incident a good opportunity to highlight the extent of its concern for human rights and resistance to terrorism everywhere on land, sea, and in the air.

Official, humanitarian, and social international organizations should denounce the ugly crime and the wicked people who perpetrated it, and above all they should condemn state terrorism.

U.S. Urged To Accept Blame

JN0507100288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial "U.S. Must Accept Blame"]

[Text] The shooting down of an Iranian civilian airliner by an American warship in the Gulf Sunday has been described by an American official as "an accident waiting to happen". That may be true, but it does not absolve the parties directly concerned of blame for the tragedy. We draw two principal conclusions from the incident: a) that the continuation of the Gulf war is bound to generate further tragedies such as this, and b) that the United States' exaggerated emphasis on technology and military overkill can never be a suitable response to essentially political disputes.

The Iranian Government and people have suffered a string of recent setbacks in the political and military arenas, and they should realise that time only increases the odds against them in the war with Iraq. The Gulf war has included such horrors as attacks on cities, and the use of chemical weapons by both sides. It was probably inevitable that an accident such as the downing of the Iran Air civilian airliner would take place, and it remains likely that other similar, or even worse, tragedies will occur in the future. One way of helping to minimise such prospects is for Iran to accept the will of the international community and to enter into talks to resolve the conflict with Iraq according to U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The United States, for its part, must accept the major share of the blame for the accident and must recognise that military prowess is not the answer to all political or human dilemmas. We thought the United States learned its lesson in Lebanon several years ago, when all its naval firepower came to naught, and it had to retreat with several hundred dead American soldiers. The lesson is being learned again in the Gulf—or should be.

Husayn Departs for 'Working Visit' in Baghdad

JN0407113288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 4 JUl 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman before noon today for Baghdad on a working visit to the Iraqi Republic during which he will hold talks with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn as part of the the continuing consultations and coordination between the sisterly countries' leaderships. His majesty is accompanied by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al- Qasim, and Commander in Chief General Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir.

His majesty and his delegation were seen off at Amman airport by Their Highnesses Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn and Chief Chamberlain Ra'd ibn Zayd, Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi, and a number of senior officials.

Meets Saddam, Returns

JN0507052488 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn returned to Amman yesterday evening following a brief working visit to the Republic of Iraq. During the visit he met with his brother His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and expressed his congratulations and those of the Jordanian people to him and to the brotherly Iraqi people for the recent victories scored by the valiant Iraqi forces along various sectors of operations.

The two sides also held a round of talks dealing with the growing bilateral relations and means to bolster and promote them in the service of the Arab nation's causes.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces. They were attended on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the members of the RCC.

His majesty was received at the airport by His Highness Prince Faysal, His Highness Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and a number of senior officials. His Majesty [illegible] Husayn and the accompanying delegation were welcomed and seen off by His Excellency Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, the members of the RCC, the ministers, and senior civic and military officials.

Prime Minister, Delegation Return From Damascus

JN0407060288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the members of the Jordanian side of the higher joint Jordanian-Syrian committee returned to Amman from Damascus last night following a 2-day official visit. During the visit Al-Rifa'i delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother President Hafiz al-Asad and held talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Al-Rifa'i also headed the Jordanian delegation to the meetings of the higher joint Jordanian-Syrian committee. Al-Rifa'i and the accompanying delegation were received at Alia International Airport by the deputy prime minister and education minister, a number of ministers, and senior officials.

At Damascus International Airport, Al-Rifa'i and the accompanying delegation were accorded an official send-doff. Heading those seeing him off were Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the deputy prime ministers, a number of ministers, the governor of Damascus, the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus, and the Syrian ambassador in Amman.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Morocco 2 Jul

JN0307075288 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Jul 88 pp 1, 16

[Text] Amman—Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri left Amman yesterday afternoon for the brotherly Kingdom of Morocco on a 4-day official visit. A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry told AL- SHA'B that Al-Masri will deliver a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Hasan II of Moroccoduring his reception today. The message deals with the most recent Arab and international developments and the current developments on the Palestine question.

During his visit, Al-Masri will meet with his Moroccan counterpart to discuss ways of developing bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest, developments in the Arab and international arenas, developments in the occupied Arab lands in light of our kinfolk's intensification of the blessed popular uprising, their resistance and confrontation of the Israeli occupation forces, and the efforts being exerted to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Al-Masri will also meet a number of Moroccan officials to discuss bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and ways of developing and increasing them.

Fadlallah Cited on Fate of U.S. Hostages

JN0507091088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] The Lebanese press today published an interview with Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual guide of Hizballah in Lebanon, in which he says: Nothing justifies taking vengeance on the U.S. hostages held in Lebanon, for they have nothing to do with the downing of the Iranian airbus.

Islamic Jihad Threatens 'To Execute' U.S. Hostage

NC0507113088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1123 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Two days after the downing of the Iranian civilian airliner over the Gulf and simultaneous with the opening of the trial of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah in Frankfurt today, a private radio in West Beirut reported a short while ago that a spokesman contacted it on behalf of Islamic Jihad and declared that the organization has decided to execute one of the two American hostages it is holding. The spokesman said that the execution will be carried out at 2000 [1700 GMT] today and added that the body will be dropped in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' locality.

According to the radio station, the spokesman stressed that this decision has been reached in order to avenge the victims of the Iranian airliner, which the U.S. Navy downed over the Gulf.

Reaction to Downing of Iranian Airliner Cited

Al-Huss, Shams al-Din Comment

NC0407164588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has commented on the shooting down of the Iranian aircraft by saying that the tragedy which occurred when an Iranian civilian plane was downed over the Gulf has been an agony for everyone. What increases the enormity of the tragedy, he said, is that the aircraft fell after it was hit by U.S. naval forces. He added: While denouncing this terrible incident, we express our condolences to the Islamic Republic and the families of the victims.

Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, stated that this criminal massacre ought to unite the Muslims in the Gulf to reject the presence of the U.S. and other fleets and military bases and to demand their immediate withdrawal.

Meanwhile, Minister Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement, sent a cable to Imam Khomeyni expressing condolences over the victims of the incident. He described the attack on the aircraft as a human scandal by U.S. hands.

Fadlallah Denounces 'Crime'

NC0407171388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] During a visit to the Iranian Embassy in Beirut today, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, denounced the heinous crime committed by the U.S. naval forces yesterday, when they shot down a civilian Iranian aircraft.

In a cable to Imam Khomeyni, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has denounced the crime and called for the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the Gulf waters.

A statement released by the Islamic Iranian Embassy in Beirut said that this crime expresses the fascist nature of the U.S. regime, its aggressiveness against the oppressed peoples, and the falsity of its claims that its military presence is aimed at establishing peace in the Gulf.

'Sabotage Network' for Israel's Mosad Uncovered

NC0507071788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jul (MENA)—Responsible Lebanese sources have stated that the Lebanese security services have recently arrested members of a major sabotage network working for Israeli intelligence. The network was planning to assassinate a number of deputies and Islamic and political leaders in West Beirut and Sidon in order to create a state of confusion in Lebanon prior to the presidential elections.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper, published today, the source disclosed that the initial interrogations of the network members revealed that they had direct links with the Israeli Mosad. This came to light in the testimony which they gave and was substantiated by material evidence.

1 Killed, 51 Hurt in 2 Car Bomb Explosions

NC0107132388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] According to the latest reports, the booby-trapped car which exploded on the approaches of Barr Ilyas in Al-Biqa' had been parked in front of a restaurant. The blast left 20 people wounded, including 2 Syrian soldiers. The restaurant and a nearby pharmacy were demolished by the explosion, and four cars were burned.

Meanwhile, the explosion which occurred in front of the Grand Hotel in Ra's Bayrut [in West Beirut] killed 1 person and injured 31 others. A military expert has estimated the charage used to booby-trap the Renault 12 used in the bombing at 20 kg of TNT.

Reportage on Inter-Palestinian Fighting

Peaceful End Sought

NC0207080088 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 2 Jul (MENA)—In today's edition, the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cites a prominent Palestinian source in Beirut as saying that a plan to bring a peaceful end to the situation in the Burj al-Barajinah camp and to spare it the Shatila camp tragedy is being worked out by the parties concerned. The same source disclosed that the plan calls for bringing in some 150 Libyan soldiers from the town of Hammana in upper Al-Matn who will be deployed as a buffer force between the fighters, and for setting up specific observation posts inside Burj al-Barajinah which will be manned by Libyan and Syrian observers, as well as representatives of the two rival factions, with a view to supervising a cease-fire agreement and preventing a recurrence of the fighting.

The source said that Saudi Arabia is holding direct consultations with Damascus for this purpose and that a Saudi envoy with a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is expected in Damascus soon.

Muraghah Denies Statement

NC0207110688 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] has denied giving any interview or statement to the press. Abu Musa was quoted yesterday as saying that Yasir 'Arafat is not permitted to return to the Beirut camps.

In a statement distributed in Beirut last night, Abu Musa said: We oppose inter-Palestinian fighting, but we were forced to defend ourselves from 'Arafat's plot. He added that efforts are currently being exerted to avoid further confrontations.

Syrians Accused of Blockade

NC0307170988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The PLO today accused the Syrian Army and its Palestinian allies, Fatah-the Uprising, of imposing a military and food blockade on the Burj al-Barajinah camp.

In a statement issued in Beirut, a PLO military spokesman stated that since the fall of Shatila into the hands of the dissidents on 28 June, the Syrian Army and its allies have arrested 22 'Arafat supporters, including 3 women, at the checkpoints they had set up at the entrance to the two camps.

The statement pointed out that the Syrian Army and its allies are building barricades and reinforcing their positions around the Burj al-Barajinah camp and that large quantities of munitions have been dispatched there. The PLO appealed to the Arab countries that backed the Palestinian uprising during the Algiers summit to intervene to bring to a close what it termed the U.S. scheme to terminate the Palestinian presence in Beirut.

14 Killed, 30 Wounded

NC0407123388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] After the fall of Shatila and the failure of efforts to reach political solutions despite active intervention by Algeria and Libya, the dissidents staged three attacks, preceded by violent artillery and rocket shelling, on Burj al-Barajinah today. However, security sources have not noticed significant changes in the positions of the two rival parties. The latest security reports indicate that fighting is continuing between the two factions, which are using flat-trajectory shells and heavy machineguns. [passage omitted]

The military commander of the 'Arafatists has disclosed that his forces have killed five dissidents in the fighting. He added: We warn that Burj al-Barajinah will not be Shatila.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] forces said the fighting erupted after 'Arafat personally gave orders to his fighters to begin the battles in order to force the dissidents out of the Beirut camps. It is not yet known whether Fatah-the Uprising gunmen intend to enter the Burj al-Barajinah camp as they did in Shatila. There are approximately 1,200 fighters inside Burj al-Barajinah under the command of 'Arafat's Fatah. [passage omitted]

REUTER cites political analysts as saying that Abu Musa plans to gain control of all the Palestinian camps in Beirut. [passage omitted]

According to preliminary reports, 14 people have been killed and around 30 others have been wounded in the fighting.

Shelling Continues

NC0407172188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon 1615 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Fatah military official Abu Riyad has affirmed that the fate of the Burj al-Barajinah camp will not be like the fate of Shatila. He added: The dissidents will only reap disappointment and shame because we will foil all the plots.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian military spokesman has accused Syrian positions of shelling Burj al-Barajinah, considering this implementation of an agreement reached with U.S. envoys to Damascus and Lebanon.

A statement by the same spokesman said that at 0500 today, artillery pieces and rocket launchers located in Syrian positions in the Sports City of West Beirut and in Al-Mansuriyah near Bhamdun opened artillery and rocket fire on the Burj al-Barajinah camp. Following this heavy bombardment, mixed [mukhtalatah] forces attempted to advance from the direction of Haifa Hospital and from Hayy al-Ba'labakkiyah.

The spokesman added that fierce fighting continued from 0900 to 1000, but that all attempts to advance toward the camp failed. He noted that the attackers are trying to reorganize their ranks, especially as the artillery pieces located in the Syrian positions have continued to shell the camp.

The Palestinian spokesman said 25 women and children were wounded when an artillery shell fell on a shelter. He added that this crime and the insistence on perpetrating it on the part of Syrian intelligence against Burj al-Barajinah and the refugee camps discloses the dimensions of the U.S. plan involved with these services against the Palestinian people and the uprising.

Casualties Updated

NC0407181488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Clashes erupted in the Burj al-Barajinah camp at 0500 and continued all day long, leaving well over 70 dead or injured, including 15 children who were injured when a shell landed in a shelter where they were hiding from the fierce bombardment. [passage omitted]

Up until the time this newscast was being prepared, the violent bombardment of the Burj al-Barajinah camp was continuing.

A source in the Fatah Provisional Command has accused 'Arafat's supporters of preparing to launch an offensive against the Burj al-Barajinah camp in order to oust the Fatah fighters from the camp. He noted that the Fatah Provisional Command refuses to be dragged into the battle. The source also accused other Palestinian organizations of bombarding the camp from outside. He appealed to the Palestinian groups and to the Lebanese nationalist movement to intercede with 'Arafat to give orders for a cease-fire.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reached

NC0507064188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] A state of tension and caution now prevails in the Burj al-Barajinah camp following the fierce clashes which took place there all day yesterday and which left 3 dead and approximately 50 wounded. Palestinian groups made intensive contacts and efforts with the two parties to the conflict to halt the deterioration, which forced many families to flee to safer areas.

The contacts and efforts led to a cease-fire decision, which was reached at a meeting held between the Palestinian groups, in the presence of Libyan envoy Major Salim Farjani, in the Mar Ilyas camp last night. They also agreed to establish a disengagement force of 150 men from these groups under the command of Libyan officers. They also decided to begin to implement the initiative announced on 24 June.

However, Ibrahim Hammad, a Fatah-the Uprising commander, has stated: We are not interested in this meeting and its decisions. We are the subject of propaganda camapigns by some of the Palestinian groups. We want the situation in the Burj al-Barajinah camp to return to what it was before the attacks were launched against us. He said that around 40 fighters have left the camp and some of them have joined Fatah-the Uprising.

Moscow Ultimatum to Dissidents

NC0507070188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jul (MENA)—A Soviet diplomatic source in Beirut has reported that Moscow has addressed a strongly worded ultimatum to the Palestinian dissident forces in Lebanon, which are led by Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], against undertaking any military action to occupy the Burj al-Barajinah camp, similar to their action against the Shatila camp. Moscow also recently conveyed to Damascus its great annoyance with the Abu Musa group's seizure of the Shatila camp.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based AL-ITTIHAD newspaper, the source disclosed that relations between the Soviet Union and the pro-Syrian PNSF leadership have become lukewarm because of the latter's escalation of military action against the Beirut camps.

On the other hand, a neutral Palestinian source in Lebanon has revealed that the 27 Libyan observers led by Major Salim Farjani have withdrawn from the Beirut camps for good. Some of them went to Damascus, while the others went to a base for Libyan forces in Hammana in upper Al-Matn, which is under PSP control.

'Extreme Tension' Prevails

NC0507082988 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] A state of extreme tension prevails in the Burj al-Barajinah camp, with bursts of automatic weapons fire and some explosions taking place from time to time. All attempts to stabilize the cease-fire between the two wings of the Fatah Movement have failed thus far. According to Palestinian sources, 6 people were killed and 47 others were wounded in yesterday's clashes.

Reaction to Downing of Iranian Airbus in Gulf

Damascus Reports Incident

JN0307114688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1125 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran—Iran has announced that the U.S. fleet has shot down an Iranian Airbus with 290 passengers on board over the Gulf today. REUTER says that it is feared that all the Airbus passengers have died. REUTER added that the Airbus was on its way from the Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy.

Dubayy airport sources said that the Airbus has been reported missing. The sources added that barges are searching for the Airbus in the Gulf waters, adding that the airport lost contact with the plane a short time following takeoff.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Iranian Armed Forces acting commander in chief, told Tehran Radio this morning that the recent U.S. threats to strike at Iranian missile bases are to boost the morale of the Iraqi regime. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that the United States always adopts a hostile stand.

'Atrocious Crime' Condemned

JN0407145488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] An official source has stated the following:

Syria has learned with amazement, pain, and disgust of the shooting down of a civilian Iranian airliner by a U.S. naval unit, resulting in the loss of hundreds of innocent lives. This criminal act, which demonstrates a contempt for human life, conclusively proves the ugliness and monstrosity of the crime and clearly underlines the risks involved in the continued presence of foreign fleets in the Arabian Gulf and its potential distress and dangers to the peoples of the region.

As Syria condemns this atrocious crime, it calls on world opinion to move against such crimes and such disdain, which mark the ugliest forms of terrorism and leave people in constant fear and anxiety.

In the meantime, Syria extends the most heartfelt condolences to the Iranian Government and the bereaved in this heinous, criminal act.

Radio Cites Press Reaction

JN0507072488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Piracy the American Way," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: A new U.S. piracy in the Gulf waters and an additional crime was carried out by the U.S. fleet. This incident will not be the last in the U.S. record of terrorism, which is now full of crimes that were perpetrated and that are being perpetrated every day against peoples and world peace and security. No, it was not just a mistake as the U.S. Administration claims in its justification of killing civilians, innocent people, and children when it fired missiles from the sea at the civilian Iranian plane.

This operation was premeditated, because the United States is used to first carrying out its acts of terrorism and then giving justifications and pretexts to cover its aggressive and brutal actions, accompanied by its regret, which adds nothing to evidence and proof. This is because the United States is the number one terrorist state in the world and the leader of this terrorism, whether directly or through its allies, the Zionist entity and other dictatorial, fascist, and repressive forces and regimes in the world.

It is an indisputable fact that, since it massed its fleets and warships in the Gulf waters, the United States has been seeking to escalate tension in the region and attempts to perpetrate further brutal and terroristic crimes against the popular Islamic revolution in Iran and against the region's stability and peace. Otherwise, why it has maintained its fleets in the region and peddled the policy of hegemony over the Gulf waters, considering it a U.S.-NATO lake on the pretext of the existence of alleged threats in the region?

The U.S. piracy against the civilian Iranian plane proves that the only major threat in this region is the U.S. military presence and the U.S. fleets and warships, which spread death and destruction against innocents and civilians and seek to impose hegemony and control over the Gulf region and its states.

The hideous U.S. crime necessitates the immediate withdrawal of the U.S. fleets and warships from the Gulf waters because they are directly responsible for threats posed to the Gulf region and the escalation of tension in it. The United States should be responsible for the consequences of its aggressive and terroristic actions. Absolutely, these actions cannot be ignored because they pose threats to world peace and security. This necessitates that all sides should confront this to prevent the implementation of the imperialist plans through aggression and terrorism in the Gulf.

On the same subject, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Since Washington began to mass its fleets in the Gulf, the region has been heading toward a tragic situation that harbors the most serious consequences and threatens not only the security of the Gulf and the Middle East, but also the security and peace of the whole world.

If the downing of the civilian Iranian plane constitutes the peak of the human tragedy resulting from this huge massing of fleets, the continuation of the U.S. or NATO military presence in the Gulf will further threaten the region with devastating consequences so long as the United States wagers on escalating tension in it and continues to interfere in its affairs.

At a time when Reagan's administration should be responsible for this vicious crime, the withdrawal of its fleets from the Gulf has become a requirement on which the whole world's efforts should focus to achieve the objective of safeguarding the peace and stability of the Gulf region.

Reportage on Alleged Missile Deal With PRC

Military Denies Missile Deal

JN0207144088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1240 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, 2 Jul (SANA)—A Syrian military spokesman has stated the following:

Israeli and other officials have lately been making many statements about a missile deal between Syria and the PRC, despite the fact, well-known to Israel, that no such deal exists or is being discussed.

Israel also knows well that Syria possesses its own missiles which suit its defensive needs. By making frequent statements on this subject, however, Israel seeks further to extort the United States to augment its aggressive arsenal so it will be able to promote its aggressive, expansionist plans.

Damascus Radio Commentary

JN0207154788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Station Commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: When the Zionist enemy created a stir about some Arab countries acquiring what it called missiles upsetting the balance of forces, it didn't take a genius to guess that the aim was to give the Zionist entity the pretext for acquiring a new American missile system and more American arms as part of Washington's commitment to Israel's security and to retaining its military edge over the Arabs.

Zionist War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's Washington visit concluded with the signing of a new memo of understanding and Israel's acquisition of a new anti-tactical ballistic missile system as well as agreement on the size and type of U.S. assistance to Israel until 1990.

Rabin's visit even culminated in making new threats against the popular uprising and the Arab states concerned with the missiles. Rabin sought from his threats to suggest that Israel's use of agressive force is an ever present possibility and that Washington's comitment to supply Israel with the most up-to-date American weaponry remains the underlying factor of the strategic U.S.-Israel relationship.

Washington's commitment also illustrates an abiding American interest in providing the Zionist entity with all military resources—resources that encourage it to pursue its aggressive, expansionist policy in the region and its defiance of the will of the international community by refusing to implement UN resolutions calling for its withdrawal from all the occupied Arab land and recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

It was no coincidence that the fabricated missile stir and the Zionist entity acquiring new American weapons should follow a string of statements by American officials who visited the region warning that the situation will likely explode unless progress is made toward a Mideast political solution. The United States still clings to the Shultz plan which lacks the requirements for a just, comprehensive peace in the region, inasmuch as it envisages a limited autonomous rule on the West Bank and Gaza Strip rather than recognizing Palestinian national rights. Further, the Shultz plan approaches the future of the occupied land in the context of an emasculated international conference in favor of a total Israeli withdrawal from the Arab land.

In short, the Shultz plan insists on promoting the Camp David accords which are hostile to the Arabs and their causes. It also ignores the facts of the uprising and the Arab-Israeli conflict. A solution based on this plan cannot possibly square with occupation, denial of rights, and promotion of suspect projects that fail to meet the requirements of just, comprehensive peace. Rather, this plan seeks to extricate the Zionist enemy from the fix in which the popular Palestinian uprising has placed it.

The United States is thus encouraging the Zionist entity to bypass its dilemma by adopting belligerent policies whose consequences will be no better than those reaped by all invaders when the peoples that were subjected to their occupation and terrorist crimes resolved to liberate their land and achieve victory.

Radio Cites AL-BA'TH

JN0307073088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 3 Jul 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Self-Defense Is One of Our Legitimate Rights," AL-BA'TH says: The so-called missile deal between Syria and the PRC over the past 2 weeks has provided a pretext for a campaign of slander, deception, and threats disseminated by Zionist and many U.S. Administration officials. While our military spokesman rebutted the enemy's claims and exposed its objectives in his statement yesterday, he affirmed, among others things, several facts which no observer who follows developments in the region can ignore.

The spokesman rebutted the existence of such a deal, thus voiding the enemy's claims and the excuses it wants to cite through which it seeks to achieve a double objective. The enemy persistently seeks means with which to threaten Syria on one hand and blackmail the U.S. weapons arsenal on the other in order to consolidate its plans of aggression.

If we review the most basic international rights, we find that they do not conflict with the objective of self-defense and the protection of the homeland's security against any potential aggression. What we have here is an actual aggression so long as Israel basically thrives on aggression and on threatening Arab existence.

Our military spokesman explained that Syria has defensive missiles that are capable of deterring the aggression. The aggression exists because the Zionist threat has existed since the usurpation of Palestine. Is it prohibited for Syria, which has dedicated itself and devoted all its national and pan-Arab potential to protecting Arab existence, to protect its security, territory, and sovereignty and, while doing so, protect Arab territory, security, and sovereignty?

It goes without saying that Syria does not heed the enemy's threats and its campaigns of deception. Syria is well aware of its position, and knows how to exercise its legitimate right to defend itself and protect its security and pan-Arab stands, which have become an obstacle to the schemes of expansion and capitulation.

From this premise, the military spokesman's reply to the Zionist officials' slander has put the enemy's real intentions in the glare of the spotlight and exposed these intentions to Arab and world opinion. The enemy's campaign against the missile deal may be just an excuse for paving the way for aggression against Syria and the Arab nation. We will not stand idly by in the face of such aggression.

Our right to self-defense is a legitimate right. We are also capable of exercising it at any moment and using it in the manner that suits us. First and foremost, we are not concerned about any domestic problems the enemy experiences and which it tries to export to us through aggression.

U.S. Role Criticized

JN0307141488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The United States has tried to diminish the impact of the U.S.-Israeli agreement on missile production by explaining that this project is not new but dates back 3 years, when the issue was discussed from its technical and financial aspects and when there was agreement on all details so that the project could be announced during Rabin's recent visit to Washington.

The Israeli war minister shamelessly depicted the matter as if it were a reply to the Chinese missile deal with Syria, something that actually does not exist. Moreover, Israeli leaders vie with one another to create an uproar that has not yet calmed down about the danger of this or that Arab state acquiring missiles or any other sophisticated weapons. It seems as if the acquisition of weapons were the right of Israel alone and forbidden to other states. Hence, if an Arab state attempts to obtain the means to help it repulse Israeli aggression and confront the expansionist Israeli policy, this will be considered a threat to the security of the whole world, as the Israeli generals of terrorism and expansion say.

The logic of utmost superiority has been the foundation of Israeli policy from before 1948 until now. It is also the essence of U.S. policy in the region. This issue is discussed as if it were a natural and logical matter. Meanwhile, Israel and the Zionist pressure both in the United States and the world continue to deal with this issue as if it were a fact of life; a necessity of life; or a natural phenomenon just like rain, winds, and sun's heat.

It is regrettable that the voices that discuss and criticize this logic are still inaudible, either in the United States or in Europe. Moreover, there is nothing to point to the presence of forces wondering about the need for, or the meaning of, providing Israel with all weapons of destruction at a time when this or that Arab state is forbidden even to think of acquiring defensive weapons.

How can the United States convice Arabs of its concern for peace when it supplies Israel with all the weapons it has in its arsenal? Likewise, how can the United States claim it wants to resolve the region's problems when it concludes agreements on strategic military cooperation with Israel through facilites, donations, and conditions unequaled in the history of international relations?

The United States is not content to supply Israel with all its weapons but also makes it easy for Israel to join in the manufacture and sale of such weapons in the world's markets under Israeli names, although the Israeli contribution to their manufacture is very limited. This contribution does not exceed 20 percent in the latest U.S.-Israeli deal, as mentioned in the agreement.

In fact, we can say that the United States does not seek a solution to the region's problems. On the contrary, it seeks to impose solutions in Israel's interests and at the expense of Arabs. The United States seeks to solve the problem in the same way it solved the problem of American Indians in the United States or as the Europeans dealt with Muhammad 'Ali Pasha, ruler of Egypt in the last century, when they laid down for him the number of Egyptian soldiers, their weapons, and their ships and when they destroyed the gun factories and the naval arsenal.

At best, the United States may seek solutions similar to the Camp David accords of Al-Sadat and Begin. These solutions are first and foremost in Israel's favor and an entrenchment of the fait accompli—namely, occupation, expansion, and the Israeli and U.S. hegemony in the region with everything it contains.

Israel's erroneous logic, adopted by the United States, cannot succeed for ever because there are limits to Israel's capability, which cannot be exceeded. Moreover, there are open horizons for the growth of Arab capability and for its success in repulsing the Zionist onslaught just as the Arab nation repulsed the invasions of occupiers throughout history.

Israel Said Planning Attack

JN0307162588 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 2 Jul 88 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD has obtained important reports revealing that the Israeli Government held a secret meeting during the past few days to discuss the possibility that the Chinese "M-9" missiles have reached Syria. These reports say that enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has instructed his War Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to discuss the Israeli position on this issue with U.S. officials and had asked Rabin before the latter left for Washington to draw a military plan to attack the Syrian positions where the missiles are expected to be deployed and emphasized that this plan should be presented to him within 2 weeks at the most.

The reports say that the Israeli Cabinet discussed the perils to which Israel will be exposed if Syria obtains such weapons, stressing that if Syria obtains them a fundamental change in the military balance between Israel and Syria will be created and the missiles will pose a strategic threat to Israel.

The reports also say that the Israeli Cabinet discussed the possibility of taking a deterrent measure such as hitting the Chinese missiles when they arrive in Syria. Several Israei Cabinet members stressed the importance of taking such a step. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

Arrives 4 Jul

JN0407112888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Damascus at noon today. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the heads of the Arab homeland and protocol desks at the Foreign Ministry, the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus, and the Kuwaiti Embassy staff.

In an arrival statement to a SANA correspondent, the Kuwaiti minister said he is bringing a written message from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad on the current Arab situation and bilateral relations.

Meets With President al-Asad

JN0407153088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1700 today Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Kuwait, who gave him a letter from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Kuwait Reports Talks

LD0407220588 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria, Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, has stated that the talks between the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, and President Hafiz al-Asad were fruitful and constructive.

This was noted in a statement made by the Kuwaiti ambassador to Syria to KUNA following a meeting between Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus today in the presence of Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Kuwaiti ambassador.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad handed a written message from his highness the amir to President Hafiz al-Asad concerning the Palestinian situation in Lebanon and the Arab situation.

An official Syrian source said that the meeting dealt with the Arab situation and its developments and relations between the State of Kuwait and Syria.

Tomorrow a meeting will be held between Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and Mr al-Shar' before the deputy prime minister and foreign minister leaves Damascus for Amman, where he will deliver a message from his highness the amir of Kuwait to His Majesty King Husayn.

Jordanian Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives Damascus 2 Jul

JN0207093188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minsiter of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Damascus at 1000 today on a 2-day official visit to the country.

At the head of those receiving him at Damascus International Airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Also receiving him were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs and head of the escort mission; and the Jordanian charge d'affairs in Damascus.

Departs 3 Jul

JN0307203788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Damascus at 2215 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi headed those who saw him off at Damascus International Airprot. Al-Rifa'i was also seen off by the two deputy prime ministers for services and economic affairs, the ministers, the Damascus governor, the Syrian ambassador in Amman, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus and the embassy staff.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry on 'Hostile' Ziaul Haq Remarks

LD0207214888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman made the following comments on remarks the Pakistani president made at the conclusion of the international conference on national stability and regional security in South Asia which was held in Islamabad recently:

At this conference, General Ziaul Haq made hostile and irresponsible comments about our country and people and tried to add new difficulties to the existing complicated situation. The tone and content of the Pakistani president's hostile and pointed words will only result in the Afghan people's hatred and indignation.

General Ziaul Haq, whether as the head of state of Pakistan or as a military ruler, following the dissolution of the Junejo government, and at a time when Diego Cordovez, deputy and special envoy of the UN secretary genral, is busy visting the Pakistan-Afghanistan-Iran region to assess the implementation of the Geneva accords, openly admitted that he will not end his interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

His Excellency Diego Cordovez said during his visit to the region that those who signed the Geneva accords should not [words indistinct] hostility.

General Ziaul Haq has no respect for the Geneva accords or for the envoy of the UN secretary general. He resorts to hostile remarks; for example: Soon the mujahidin will defeat the Kabul government. And he hopes to come to Afghanistan with the mujahidin and to perform the Kafel prayers [prayers of thanks to God] in one of Kabul's mosques.

These statements by Gen Ziaul Haq and earlier remarks by Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar], who said that he intends to remove the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan and set up a confederation, emanate from the ill-intentioned plan to eliminate the independent life of the Afghans and their historic identity. Ziaul Haq's words are not new to us, for the people of Afghanistan know very well the hostile plans he has for the destiny of our country. Extremists like him have mentioned several times the latest dates for taking over parts of Afghanistan's provinces.

But such ill-intentioned plans will never become reality. On the contrary, the extremists' defeats at Zabol, Spin Buldak, and Kameh have given them such an admonitory lesson that they will never forget it. I must state clearly that warmongering forces will never forget it. They will never be able to confront the heroic Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan which enjoy great combat readiness and high morale. Our people are vigilantly prepared to defend their territorial integrity, independence, and sovereignty. Our struggle to protect Afghanistan from the danger our enemies have created beyond our country's borders is comprehensive and all round, said the minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan during the joint session of the chambers of the Meli Shura to discuss the government report on implementing the Geneva agreements.

We know that remarks such as bloodbath, the toppling of the state, the disintegration of Afghanistan, a confederation with Pakistan, the fall of Qandahar or Jalalabad, and other enemy propaganda and remarks have been made. These remarks demonstrate what sort of dirty and dangerous thoughts are on their minds. They want to destroy our 4,000-year-old historic identity in the darkness of the present complex state of affairs.

The world knows that the Geneva accords have recorded the fundamental aims and purposes of the two sides: the normalization of relations, the expansion of good-neighborly relations and cooperation, and strengthening international and regional peace. It is a matter of great regret that the highest position of the Pakistani leadership has started a vigorous, provocative, interventionist, and hostile war of propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan in complete disregard of all aims and purports of this credible bilateral document which was prepared with enormous efforts by the United Nations and which enjoys the guarantee of the two superpowers.

The Pakistani president has not only rescinded the spirit and content of all the clauses of the agreements by making these remarks, but also publicly and obviously continues warmongering propaganda against Afghanistan.

Hostile and hateful words have been uttered about the people of Afghanistan by Gen Ziaul Haq. The president of Pakistan has knowingly embarked on a serious distortion of the contents of the Geneva agreements. On the one hand he refrains from any mention of Document No 1, the document which lays the legal foundation for future relations between the two countries. And on the other hand he emphasizes subjects which have not, in fact, been mentioned in the documents of the agreements.

He himself admits that so far there is no intention to end the interference and to assist the return of the refugees, and that only the undertaking to withdraw the limited contingents of the Soviet Union is being carried out. The president of Pakistan wants to deny the fact that the obstacles and ruthless measures of the Pakistani authorities and the opposition of the Afghan extremist groups present our returning compatriots with problems, delays, and impediments.

From hearing these remarks it can be inferred that the Pakistani president knowingly seeks the disruption of the agreements. Therefore, these irresponsible remarks by a state which has signed the Geneva agreements will not benefit him personally but will confront him with the increased reproach of the international community. These remarks are of warmongering and interfering nature. Even glancing at the documents of the Geneva agreements, it can be understood that these words are not only in clear contravention of the Geneva accords but also they are seriously provocative and contrary to human society's hopes for ensuring peace in this region of the world.

Gen Ziaul Haq envisions that by interfering in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and trampling on the Geneva agreements, his military government can be prolonged another 11 years. He should understand that it is a policy which everyone is aware of, and it cannot be [word indistinct] with such remarks.

The government and people of Afghanistan consider the Geneva agreements a great achievement of the efforts of the concerned parties, including the two superpowers, and a source of hope for the wretched people of Afghanistan and the peace-loving people in this part of the world. The government and people of Afghanistan honestly and resolutely observe the agreements and want all concerned parties to make Gen Ziaul Haq observe and implement the Geneva agreements so that peace may be restored to our war-torn country, thereby stabilizing the regional situation.

The Republic of Afghanistan's protest in connection with the Pakistani president's remarks has been handed to the UNGOMAP [United National Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan]. The protest draws the UN secretary general's attention to the hostile and provocative remarks by the Pakistani president.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry expresses its profound concern over such unrealistic and provocative remarks, which attempt to distort the Geneva agreements. The Afghan Foreign Ministry hopes the Pakistani leadership will as soon as possible accept the real path to regional peace and that it will understand that the interests of the Pakistani people can never be ensured through military solutions to regional disputes.

Foreign Ministry Protests Pakistani Violations

Memo 37 Submitted to UN

LD0107190888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs liaison office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reported that the 37th note of the Republic of Afghanistan was handed over to the UN Good Offices Mission in Kabul this afternoon.

The note contained information about 17 cases of blatant violation by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords, including the circumstances, results, and places.

The mission has been asked to consider the instances of violations included in this note which are an open violation by Pakistan of the Geneva accords, and to report the results to the Republic of Afghanistan and to the envoy of the UN secretary general.

Memo 38 Submitted to UN

LD0207194388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] The 38th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan concerning the 28 June hostile statement made against our Republic by the president of Pakistan at the international conference on ensuring national stability and regional security in South Asia, held in Islamabad, was handed over by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs liaison office to UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan].

The memorandum expresses regret that despite the existance of mutual agreements on the principles of mutual relations, the highest authorities in Pakistan resorted to hostile propaganda against the Republic of Afghanistan. An effort was made to deliberately distort the meaning and content of the Geneva accords, and also to openly refuse to fulfill the commitments of noninterference.

The memorandum requests the delegation to investigate this and to bring the results to the attention of the sides concerned.

The memorandum adds that since His Excellency D. Cordovez, special envoy of the UN secretary general is visiting Pakistan, he should be informed of the statements made by the president of Pakistan, which are an obvious violation of the Geneva accords.

Memo 39 Submitted to UN

LD0307220288 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Afghanistan handed over its 39th memorandum to the UN mission this afternoon via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs liaison office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The memorandum lists five cases of blatant violations by Pakistan of Article II, Document 1, and gives complete information on dates, place and the circumstances of the violations. It requests an investigation into the violations and that information on the findings be given to Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

Memo 40 Submitted to UN

LD0407202188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Republic of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs liaison office with the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that this evening the 40th memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan was handed to the UN Good Office Mission delegation in Kabul.

The memorandum contains information on six Pakistani violations of Article II, Document 1 of the Geneva accords. It is requested that, based on the provisions of Paragraph 7, Document 4 of the Geneva accords, an assessment be made in this regard, and the results presented to the Republic of Afghanistan and the envoy of the UN secretary general.

Foreign Ministry Statement on Forming Coalition

LD0307202888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] In consideration of a variety of utterances concerning the formation of a broad-based coalition government in Afghanistan, the Afghan Foreign Ministry is authorized to announce the following [word indistinct]:

In accordance with the spirit of compromise and the desire to cease bloodshed, 1 and ½ years ago the state and the PDPA not only expressed their unconditional readiness to replace war with dialogue with all Afghan opposition forces, including the alliance of seven, but they even took sincere and practical steps in a troublesome and complicated situation to achieve this great aspiration.

Within the framework of this policy, the Afghan Government established contacts with commanders of armed units inside the country, political refugees, and some representatives of the opposition outside the country, which in some cases, were fruitful. The gradual development of the national reconciliation policy on the village, subdistrict, district, and provincial levels, as well as at the level of the central government brought about hopeful (?integration).

Today 13 provinces and a great number of districts and subdistricts are practically ruled by the groups previously opposed to the state. At the level of the central organ of power, a new government has obtained a vote of confidence from an elected Meli Shura [National Assembly] in accordance with the new Constitution. Nineteen seats have been left for those who are not members of the PDPA. Some of the new cabinet seats are waiting to be filled by representatives of the opposition groups.

Thus even under the conditions of continuing war, we have been able to advance toward the formation of a broad-based coalition administration.

This compromise and coalition is a matter among Afghans. This was achieved despite the fact that the alliance of seven in Peshawar has so far rejected compromise and continues its hostile struggle and war operations. Naturally, had the level of armed clashes been reduced, our gains in this regard would have been greater.

During the course of the Geneva talks, the Afghan leadership was aware that the USSR, the United States, Pakistan, and the UN secretary general and his envoy Cordovez, emphasized the principle of the formation of a broad-based coalition—which was considered a matter between Afghans—following the signing of the Geneva accords. The Afghan leadership has not only welcomed this [words indistinct], but has sincerely moved toward its implementation.

However, to further broaden the coalition government, dialogue and talks are again necessary to create a new mechanism for coalition through consultation and accord. This mechanism would be implemented in accordance with subsequent developments. Beginning a dialogue would require not only the agreement of all opposition groups, including the alliance of seven, but the cessation of combat operations and armed clashes, and a general, nationwide, all-around cease-fire. We are ready to meet all these conditions. The Afghan leadership firmly believes that the only way to form a broad-based coalition government is to open a dialogue among all Afghan forces.

There is now no other way to do this. This fact was recently reconfirmed by the formation of the alliance of seven's so-called interim government in Peshawar, which was artificially created with the support and encouragement of the Pakistani Government. This government has not been supported by any Afghan sector. All Afghans at home and abroad have rejected and even condemned the formation of this Afghan government on foreign soil.

It should also be said that the Geneva talks affirmed the principle of the balance of two processes—the political solution of the Afghan situation and the matter of national reconciliation. The simultaneous advancement of these two processes was also discussed, so that not only would the situation around our country be normalized, but peace would be established inside the country as well. The opposition's approach and the [words indistinct] increase in the extremist groups' movement have created a situation in which these aspirations have remained merely good wishes.

Pakistan is not adhering to its pledges in the Geneva accords. Interference from Pakistani soil is not only continuing, but increasing. The tense situation of hostility and armed conflict have created obstances to opening dialogue with all Afghan forces at war. In no way is the Afghan Government the cause of the continuation of this situation.

Pakistani and U.S. support and encouragement to the irreconcilable extremists, who have relied upon a military solution to the situation after the return of the Soviet forces to their country, is causing the continuation of the present situation and the pain and suffering of our people. The negation of the articles of the Geneva accords will damage the hopeful prospects for the solution of all regional disputes which have come about.

We announce that while efforts are being made to form a broader coalition government, Pakistan and the United States should first assure that they will implement the articles of the Geneva accords as (?enshrined) without deviation or one-sided interpretation. The Afghan Government's principle in forming a broad-based coalition government for the purpose of ending the bloodshed and fratricide and in order to realize peace and the reconstruction of the country is based on the principles of the participation of all opposition forces, social and political personalities inside and outside Afghanistan, and representatives of the refugees.

Rebels Set Up Provincial Governments in North

BK0207084788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have established administrative governments in 11 provinces in the country's northern region. Reports say that the 11 provinces have been divided into four administrative zones and every province now has its own government. The mujahidin will carry out their administrative responsibilities in the liberated areas of these provinces. The local administration will pay attention to improving the living standard of the people and to promoting educational and health facilities.

Meanwhile, a representative at the Communist Party of the Soviet Union congress, (Gregoriy Bykanov), who is also a popular writer, criticized the decision to send Soviet troops to Afghanistan and said it was against democracy.

Government, Rebel Operations, Clashes Reported

Fighting in Nangarhar Detailed

LD0207200988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] An extremist group which was disrupting the peaceful life of the people in the areas around La'lpur district, Nangarhar Province, was crushed by the Armed Forces yesterday.

A BIA military section correspondent, reporting from Jalalabad city, Nangarhar Province, said that in the course of this activity the peace-loving citizens of the district, in the true spirit of patriotism, fought with the Armed Forces against the extremist elements. They inflicted crushing blows on the warmongering elements, who suffered heavy casualties, including 19 seriously injured.

Arms and ammunition belonging to the enemy, including 2 mortars, a ZK-1, 10 light weapons, and thousands of shells were destroyed, as were a number of the extremists' hideouts. Intensification of an internal disagreement among the extremist groups yesterday resulted in armed clashes between two groups in (Dehat) village in (Khogayani) district, Nangarhar Province.

A correspondent of the BIA military section reports that four extremist elements were injured and (Sadollah), head of a group, was killed in the clash.

Rebels Down Plane Over Khowst

BK0307024888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin shot down a Kabul administration military aircraft in Khowst town of Paktia Province, killing seven people on board the aircraft. In connection with their military operations in the Herat and Qandahar areas, the mujahidin inflicted a heavy loss of life and property to the Najibullah administration after fierce fighting in those areas.

The reports also say that several soldiers of the communist administration were killed in fighting on the Kabul and Qandahar highway and in the Qarah Bagh area of Herat Province. Another report says mujahidin liberated Khoshk subdistrict of Lowghar Province after a week of fierce fighting with the Kabul administration's forces. According to Kabul radio, fighting also continues in Nangarhar Province.

Operations in Marghan, Mamay

BK0307155288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have badly damaged a security post and destroyed a tank in rocket attacks on military installations in Marghah town. Five Kabul regime soldiers are reported to have been killed in these attacks. The mujahidin also captured two Kabul regime soldiers and seized large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 10 Kalashnikov rifles. According to another report, the mujahidin also attacked the airport and military installations in Mamay town and caused heavy damage.

Clashes in Mohammad Agha

LD0307221088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] BIA's military section reports that two criminal extremists groups which were disrupting the peaceful life of the people in Mohammad Agha district, Lowgar Province and in the region of Aynak, carrying out destructive activities and causing fear, were crushed by the country's security forces.

These groups were forced to leave these regions leaving behind two dead, four wounded, (?one) DShK and various types of ammunition.

Rebels Claim Town Captured

BK0407082488 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured an important town of Mohammad Agha, 34 kms south of Kabul in the Lowgar Valley. The mujahidin captured a number of tanks, jeeps, and trucks besides seven machine guns and a large quantity of ammunition and food supplies. The mujahidin, after capturing the town, have cut off the land route between Kabul and Gardeyz and Kabul administration's contact with Paktia Province by land.

According to another report, the mujahidin are also continuing their siege around Meymaneh city.

Rebel Spokesmen Comment

BK0407122288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1212 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 4 (AFP)—Afghan resistance guerrillas have taken an important town they had been besieging near Kabul after a large number of the troops inside surrendered, the rebels said Monday.

Mohammed Agha, a district capital in Lowgar Province some 30 kilometers (18 miles) southeast of Kabul and strategically situated between the Afghan capital and Gardeyz, had fallen to the mujahidin on Friday, a spokesman for the Hezb-e Eslami faction said.

The rebels had held the town under siege for several days, blocking supplies and reinforcements to the troops inside, then launched a final assault on Thursday and had "captured it completely" by mid-day Friday, he said.

The town's population of 15,000 to 20,000 had cooperated with the mujahidin, the spokesman addd.

A spokesman for the Jamiyat-e Eslami group said several mujahidin groups took part in the operation.

The Hezb-e Eslami spokesman said 10 Afghan soldiers died and a large number of troops and militiamen either surrendered or were captured.

He gave no figures for guerrilla losses.

The guerrillas captured six tanks, four jeeps, five big cannons, three wireless sets and dozens of army beds and linen besides food stuff, the Hezb-e Eslami source said.

He said Hezb-e Eslami leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar was currently in Lowgar Province, where Afghan troops also gave up control of Baraki town last week. He did not say if the operation was supervised by Mr. Hikmatyar.

Afghan planes had been seen hovering over the Mohammad Agha area but had not conducted any raids since the mujahidin took the town, the spokesman added.

Afghan forces regularly bomb areas captured by the mujahidin in a bid to dislodge them, a tactic which proved successful in dislodging the rebels from the town of Qalat in June.

Rebels Capture Town Near Kabul

BK0407082488 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured an important town of Mohammad Agha, 34 kms south of Kabul in the Lowgar Valley. The mujahidin captured a number of tanks, jeeps, and trucks besides seven machine guns and a large quantity of ammunition and food supplies. The mujahidin, after capturing the town, have cut off the land route between Kabul and Gardeyz and Kabul administration's contact with Paktia Province by land.

According to another report, the mujahidin are also continuing their siege around Meymaneh city.

India

Downing of Iranian Plane Called 'Unjustified'

BK0407160688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] India has deplored the shooting down of the Iranian civilian aircraft by the United States Armed Forces over the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement in New Delhi this evening, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said the use of military force against clearly civilian targets is unjustified and has led to the tragic loss of a large number of innocent lives.

He said the U.S. Administration is urged to thoroughly investigate the circumstances of the military action and to speedily identify those responsible for it.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has conveyed the heartfelt sympathies of his government and the people of India to the families of those killed in the action. In a message to the Iranian prime minister, Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi, Mr Gandhi said India has consistently maintained that the great powers naval presence in the Gulf are aggravating tension in the region and we had called for the utmost restraint on the part of all concerned.

Mr Gandhi said the act of violence perpetrated yesterday demonstrates only too clearly that peace in the region must be restored speedily through the process of negotiation and take into account the legitimate interests of all parties and not through a futile resort to force.

Bomb Explodes, GNLF Opens Fire in Darjeeling

BK0107125788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] In West Bengal, a 24-hour bundh [strike] in Darjeeling hill area is marked by violent incidents. A powerful bomb exploded in the district magistrate's office compound injuring a child. The building was extensively damaged. Another bomb was defused in the same area.

The GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists opened indiscriminate fire at Navingram injuring one person seriously.

Normal life in Darjeeling was completely disrupted following the bundh. The bundh call, however, failed to evoke any response in Kurseong town. The bundh was called by the GNLF women's wing protesting against the alleged arrest of its president.

Release of Leaders Ordered

BK0107164688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Excerpts] The West Bengal Government today ordered the release of the detained GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] leaders, including Mrs Hema Lama, to create a congenial atmosphere for a solution of the Darjeeling hill area problem. The state home secretary, Mr N. Krishnamurthi, said in Calcutta that the decision was taken after the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, had a meeting with the senior Darjeeling District officials earlier in the day. He said leaders are being released to enable Mr Ghisingh to discuss the draft hill development council bill. [Passage omitted]

A Gangtok report says Sikkim remained cut off from the rest of the country today owing to the bundh [strike].

Gurkhas Suspend Agitation

BK0307041688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] president, Mr Subash Gheising, has announced suspension of agitation in the Darjeeling hill areas and urged his partymen to maintain peace. Mr Gheising, who returned to Darjeeling after tripartite talks in Delhi, said the agitation has been suspended temporarily to create a congenial atmosphere for finding a lasting solution. He told newsmen that the center and the state government have agreed to replace the Central Reserve Police Force by the Border Security Force in the hill areas. Mr Gheising said the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has agreed to release 90 GNLF activists detained under antiterrorist act.

The president of women's wing of the GNLF, Mrs Hema Lama, has already been released.

'Terrorists' Kill Congress-I Leader in Punjab

BK0207085988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, the terrorists have gunned down two persons, including a Congress-I leader, and seriously injured another since last night. In Amritsar District, the general secretary of the district Congress-I, Mr Manjit Singh, was shot dead in his house in Virka town early this morning. In another incident in Amritsar City, a scooterist was shot at and seriously injured. In Ropar District, five terrorists attacked village Sotha late last night. They shot dead a farmer and robbed another two of a gun and a pistol.

'Major Breakthrough' Against Terrorism Reported

BK0207082488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] In Himachal Pradesh, an emergency plan is being implemented to contain infiltration of terrorists from Punjab into the state. Announcing this at a conference of deputy commissioners and suprintendents of police in Simla yesterday, the chief minister, Mr Virbhadra Singh, said the center has been requested for additional funds for this purpose. The singh asked the police chiefs to step up vigil in the border areas.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said that the security forces in the state have achieved a major breakthrough in smashing important terrorist outfits and espionages during the past few days. Mr Ray said that once we are able to snap the link between the terrorists and their supporters in Pakistan, there will be a dramatic improvement in the situation in Punjab. He was laying the foundation stone of a 40 million rupees housing complex for policemen at Ferozepur yesterday.

'Terrorists' Kill 5, Injure 2 in Punjab 3-4 Jul

BK0407162188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons have been shot dead and two injured in separate incidents of terrorist activities since last night. Four persons were killed at village Navawarian in Amritsar District this afternoon. In another incident in Faridkot District, a farmer was gunned down in a village near Moga last night.

8 Killed in Village Councils Election Violence

BK0207160488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Reports reaching Lucknow says eight persons were killed in a group clash during the second phase of panchayat [local bodies] elections in Uttar Pradesh. Polling had to be postponed at several centers. Nearly 25,000 gram panchayats [village councils] went to the polls yesterday. Polling for the third and final phase will be held on Tuesday.

Opposition Speaks of Alternative to Congress-I

BK0207161888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Some prominent opposition leaders today stressed the need for a minimum common program to project as an alternative to the Congress-I at the national level. They were speaking at a meeting called by the Jan Morcha [People's Front] in Calcutta today. Addressing the meeting, the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said that mere promises will not serve the purpose. Opposition have to frame a program which is in tune with the aspirations of the common people. Among others, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, Bhartiya Janata Party, and Mr Madhu Dandavate and Mr George Fernandes, both Janata, attended the meeting. The Jan Morcha leader, Mr V.P. Singh, said opposition parties should now shed their differences to fight for a common goal.

Iran

IRNA Claims U.S. Downed Passenger Plane

LD0307092088 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—An Iran Air Airbus with 290 passengers aboard was downed by the U.S. fleet at the Persian Gulf en route from the Iranian port Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy Sunday morning.

All passengers of the plane are feared dead.

No Emergency Call Heard

LD0307102388 Tehran IRNA in English 1019 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—The Iranian Airbus which was downed by the U.S. fleet Sunday morning had taken off from Bandar-e 'Abbas Airport at 10:15 local time (06:45 GMT) for Dubayy, flight No 655.

The pilot's last contact with the control tower was seven minutes after take off at 10:22 (06:25 GMT). Few minutes after the contact the plane was missing from the Bandar-e 'Abbas control tower's radar screen.

The pilot of the plane with 290 aboard had not sent any emergency call.

100 Bodies Recovered

LD0307104188 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, Iran—Bodies of 100 passengers killed in the Airbus crash Sunday morning have been retrieved in the Persian Gulf waters by the Iranian rescue teams.

Most of the bodies were disintegrated. The naval frogmen also have discovered pieces of the plane showing that the plane had been hit by a missile.

The plane was shot down with 290 passengers aboard on a flight from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy.

The plane was shot down at location 26.43 degrees north and 56.3 degrees east at an altitude of 7,500 feet.

Plane Hit by 2 SAM's

LD0307131988 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—A senior military official today disclosed details of a U.S. Navy attack on an Iranian civilian Airbus passenger plane in the Persian Gulf.

The official who requested anonymity told IRNA that American forces deployed in the Persian Gulf attacked some Iranian boats on a routine patrol in the region Sunday morning.

Shortly after the attack, crew members of the boats returned fire and in an ensuing clash two Iranians went missing, he said.

During the clash, he said, some American helicopters began flying over the boats and shot at them. The patrol boats while trading fire with the American naval warships also confronted the U.S. choppers, shooting down one of them, he added.

Minutes after the American helicopter was downed, an Iranian Airbus passenger plane, which had taken off from the southern Iranian port of Bandar-e 'Abbas, was observed over the scene of the clashes, he said.

The passenger plane, he said, was hit by two surface-to-air missiles fired by the American naval units and exploded in the sky while flying over the Hengam Island.

Eye-witnesses on the Hengam Island and Iranian military forces present in the Persian Gulf all clearly saw the passenger plane hit by two surface-to-air missiles fired by the American warships, he said.

The military official said the civilian plane was at location 26.43 degrees north and 53.3 east when hit by the U.S. ground-to-air missiles. The wreckage of the plane with 298 passengers and crew members went into the Persian Gulf waters, he added.

The American troops in the Persian Gulf have been trying to make trouble for Iranian patrol units over the past few days, he said, adding that such measures were coupled with U.S. propaganda that its troops were seeking an excuse to engage Iranian forces.

Commander of the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf General George Christ was quoted as saying Saturday that the U.S. Navy was looking for an excuse to attack Iran's Kuhestanak [name as received] naval base in the region.

The Iranian military official said such a policy adopted by the U.S. could very well explain its Navy attack on the Iranian patrol boats.

Passenger Plane, Not F-14 Down

LD0307130488 Tehran IRNA in English 1302 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—An informed military source today categorically denied a U.S. claim that its naval fleet in the Persian Gulf had downed an Iranian F-14 jet fighter Sunday.

The source said the aggressive U.S. forces had missiled down an Iranian civilian Airbus plane enroute to Dubayy from the southern port of Bandar-e 'Abbas with 298 passengers and crew members on board, following the escalation of their threats against Iran.

He added that during Sunday's Iran-U.S. naval confrontation in the Persian Gulf, no Iranian F-14 jet fighters were flying over the waterway. This very well disproves the American claim, the official said.

The Iranian rescue teams and naval frogmen have so far retrieved 100 bodies in the Persian Gulf which he said indicates the plant hit by American surface-to-air missiles was a passenger airliner.

U.S. Warning Reportedly Heard

LD0307142988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1359 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 3 (KUNA)—A U.S. warship was heard to warn an unidentified aircraft to change course away shortly before the reported crash of an Air Iran Airbus, the BBC reported here Sunday.

The BBC's Middle East correspondent said a missile was then fired by the American vessel. At the same time there were reports of clashes between U.S. and Iranian vessels, and Iranian fighter aircraft were said to be in the same area, he said.

Plane on Regular Flight Path

LD0307174688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The Iranian Airbus passenger plane, which was the target of two missiles fired by U.S. warships, was flying in the international corridor. An informed official of the Bandar-e 'Abbas airport control tower said: Considering the regular and repeated flights of passenger planes through this international corridor, the U.S. fleet should have been quite familiar with this route. He rejected the claim by U.S. officials to have hit an Iranian F-14 fighter plane and said: At the time of the attack there were no Iranian F-14's in the sky. He concluded by saying: Aviation experts are now carefully studying the U.S. attack against Iran's passenger plane.

Plane in International Corridor

LD0407151788 Tehran IRNA in English 1502 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Undeniable evidence confirm that the Iranian passenger plane (Airbus A-300) was flying inside the international air traffic corridor when it was hit by U.S. missiles, head of the Civil Aviation Organization said here today.

Mohammad Javad Ranai-Far said Flight No 655 en route to Dubayy was targetted by the U.S. fleet seven minutes after take-off from Bandar-e 'Abbas Airport. "Since the plane was hit in international air traffic lane S-59, and judging from the location of which it exploded (26.43 degrees North and 56.3 degrees East), it is clear that she was well within the international route," he added.

Inviting aviation experts for an on-site inspection Ranai-Far refuted U.S. officials' claims that the Airbus was travelling at a speed of 450 miles per hour and said these types of jetliners cannot fly with more than 300 miles per hour at the take-off stage. "Air traffic insecurity created by the United States for the Islamic Republic has previously been reported to related international forums since 1984, but no appropriate response was received," he regretted.

Meanwhile, Iran Air Managing Director Mohammad Reza Majedi said the maximum speed of the Airbus A-300 aircraft is about 0.84 of the speed of sound which is not comparable with a supersonic plane.

Tokyo Convention 1963, the Hague Convention 1970, Montreal convention 1971 have banned any attack against civilian and commercial planes, Majedi recalled. He condemned the inhuman U.S. crime noting that Washington is one of the signatories of the said protocols.

Majedi said the Airbus A-300 'Iran Banam' joined the Iranian commercial fleet on April 30, 1982, and had clocked a total of 11,497 flight hours before the U.S. fleet shot it down Sunday.

He said he had sent a letter to Director General of International Air Transport Association (IATA) Gunter Eser [name as received], calling on him to condemn the barbaric U.S. measure and prevent repetition of such events.

Day of Mourning Declared

LD0307173188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Following the cowardly attack by the U.S. naval fleet on the Iranian Airbus passenger plane, the Iranian Government has expressed its sympathy with the families of those martyred in this terrible U.S. crime. It also declared tomorrow, Monday, a day of public mourning day all over the country.

Funeral Services 5, 6 Jul

LD0407095588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The Foundation of Martyrs of the Islamic Revolution has announced that services will be held 1600-1800 tomorrow in Tehran's Ark Mosque in honor of the martyrs of the U.S. fleet's attack on the Iranian passenger airliner. The Tehran Struggling Clergy Society has announced that at 1600-1800 on Wednesday, 6 July, services for the same purpose will be held at Ark Mosque.

Events Leading to Airbus Attack

LD0407121588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4Jul 88

[Text] An informed source at the Guard Corps Navy gave an interview to the Central News Unit in which he recounted the minute-by-minute reports on the dastardly attack by the U.S. warship on the Iranian passenger aircraft.

He said that while, as usual, Iranian naval vessels were in the Strait of Hormuz to control and inspect merchant ships, at 0625 a U.S. frigate approached our vessels, stopped in the area, and began observing their activities.

From that time, until 0815, a number of merchant ships of various nationalities were observed. The necessary information was obtained from them through radio communication. After making certain that they were not suspicious, they were allowed to resume their voyage.

At 0725 a helicopter took off from a U.S. warship and patrolled the area. At 0910, when the missions of the Iranian naval vessels were concluded and they were sailing for Iranian shores, the helicopter approached the vessels and openned fire on them. It was confronted with reciprocal action by our vessels and crashed. After that, the U.S. frigate changed course and kept its distance from the Iranian vessels. The corps' naval vessels then left the area and sailed for our coasts.

He added: Around 1000 hours, near the coast of Qeshm in Iranian territorial waters, the U.S. ship again appeared and opened fire on our vessels with 127-mm guns. Our vessels returned fire and the clash started again. During the clash a number of missiles hit the U.S. warship. In return, two of our troops were thrown out of the vessel. Hours later, they were rescued from the sea by our forces. Only one of our vessels sustained minor damage. The remainder were intact and kept the U.S. warship under observation.

He added: At 1025, after the clash was over, the U.S. warship fired two surface-to-air missiles at an Iranian Airbus passenger aircraft which was flying over the area, parallel to the southeastern shore of Qeshm Island, as a result of which the said plane crashed in the sea. The U.S. warship immediately left the area.

After the incident, our vessels went to the scene of the crash and attempted to recover the bodies, after the arrival of helicopters and other vessels. There is no doubt that the U.S. frigate had been aware that the Airbus was a passenger plane. Firstly, the said plane was flying at an altitude of about 10,000 feet and was clearly visible to the naked eye. Moreover, the intelligence equipment of the U.S. vessel was fully capable of distinguishing between a passengeraircraft and a warplane. Furthermore, 30 minutes after the crash, the U.S. vessel asked over the radio for permission to approach, to give assistance to the passengers. This fact proves that the crew of the U.S ship had known that it was a passenger plane.

Plane's Black Box Not Found

LD0507134588 Tehran Dometic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] So far, the bodies of 200 martyrs of the tragic incident of the attack by the aggressor U.S. forces on the passenger airliner have been recovered from the Persian Gulf waters. In a telephone contact with our correspondent a few moments go, the managing director of Islamic Republic Airlines [Iran Air] described the latest activities of the search groups, which we will hear now:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] What are the latest details of the greatest disaster in the history of aviation, which was perpetrated by U.S. forces? Have the attempts to find the black box been successful?

[Director] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to a report which I have just received, about 200 bodies have been recovered. They are in the morgue. Of course, the condition of 40 of the bodies makes identification very difficult. Concerning the recovery of the rest of the bodies, the search groups are busy. Our technical group is in the area trying to find the black box, but so far they have not been able to do so. We hope that they will be able to find it, God willing.

[Correspondent] How many bodies have been identified so far?

[Director] Six of our air crew have been identified, and a number of passengers from Zahedan, Mashhad, Shiraz, and Esfahan. They are ready to be shipped, and God willing, we will arrange flights to ship them to the provinces tonight. [end recording]

Military Analysts on Mistake

LD0307201688 Tehran IRNA in English 2002 GMT 3 Jul 88

["Military Analysts Mystified at U.S. "Accident" Claim"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, July 3, IRNA—As Washington attempts to justify its shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf Sunday, military analysts are stunned by its claim that it could have been mistaken for a warplane.

The Pentagon took nearly 12 hours to admit that it was responsible for killing the 290 passengers and crew on the Airbus, that was hit by missiles from the USS Vincennes.

The warship just arrived in the Persian Gulf two months ago especially equipped with the latest American electronic warfare systems and had only been put on station in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday.

Even if it had been fitted with only a "straight forward radar" the blip of a fighter would have been moving "very much more quickly than the airliner," David Learmont of Flight International said.

The blip of the Airbus taking off from Bandar-e 'Abbas would have been moving "very slowly" as it was climbing, whereas an F-14 fighter climbs very fast, he said.

In admitting Washington's crime, Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Admiral William Crowe maintained that the Vincennes was protecting "itself from hostile aircraft" and the Navy had "sufficient reason to believe their units were in jeopardy and they fired in self-defence."

Learmont, speaking on Independent Television News (ITN), was mystified by the U.S. excuse and could only suggest that its forces at the time were "probably hyped up."

The claim of mistaken identity is also challenged by the reported warning given out by an American warship to an aircraft, that had been picked up by radio monitors in the Persian Gulf around the time it was shot down.

Others further question the contradictory information coming from Washington with regard to the timing of the claim of shooting down an F-14 at 0610 GMT but point out that the Airbus did not takeoff from Bandar-e 'Abbas until 0645 GMT.

ITN commentator in Washington Tim Ewart could only sum up that the incident was likely to make Ronald Reagan "embroiled in the most painful controversy of his presidency."

Montazeri Message to Khomeyni on Airbus Downing

LD0407133488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Condolence message from Grand Ayatollah Montazeri to Imam Khomeyni on the downing of the Iranian passenger plane—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We are for God and to Him we will return.

The honorable commander in chief and grand ayatollah, Imam Khomeyni, may your shadow extend:

Greetings and condolences to Your Eminence, to the honorable and resisting Iranian nation and to the families of the martyrs of the recent U.S. crime. I pray for the attainment of the highest position on the path of righteousness for all the martyrs.

The recent U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf and the military attack on the Iranian passenger airliner, which resulted in its crash and the martyrdom of about 300 innocent Muslims, cannot be overlooked. This heartrending crime once again has revealed to the world the inhuman and hypocritical nature of the U.S. Government. With this unprecedented crime, the United States proved that it does not follow any humanitarian standards or international regulations and is, as always, the principal enemy of Islam, the risen Iranian nation, and all innocent people in the world.

A careful look at the crimes and wrongs committed in the region by U.S. agents makes it clear that the U.S. Government and its colonialist interests are the main root of Saddam's aggression against Iran and that of the usurping Israel against the Arab countries, of the mass killing of the oppressed nation of Palestine in the occupied territories, of the merciless killing by the Al Sa'ud of pilgrims to the house of God in the Sanctified Mosque of God, and of other crimes and oppressions in the region.

It is the criminal United States that is supporting Saddam in initiating and continuing the war, which surely is aimed at safeguarding U.S. colonialist interests. Certainly, if it were not for the support provided to Saddam by the United States and its allies in the region this destructive war would have ended years ago with the victory of Islam. It is the world-devouring United States that persuades and incites the usurping Israel and the criminals of Al Sa'ud and other reactionaries in the region to plunder, commit crimes, and kill.

On this basis and in the light of Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, who said: By God, any nation that can be attacked by the enemy in its homeland will be contemptible and weak; and in light of Your Excellency's guidelines, which on various occasion have warned against the serious threat posed by the United States and of its hostility against Islam, the Koran, and the oppressed people of the world; now that the main enemy of Islam and the Muslims has entered the arena in the region with its allies, it is befitting that Your Excellency issue the necessary orders so that, in addition to the holy defense of the country's borders, careful plans are drawn up and implemented for principled fight against the main enemy, which is the United States, on the political, economic, cultural, and military fronts. This is because fighting against effects and neglecting causes cannot be justified by any kind of logic. Your Excellency is aware of the fact that fighting a full-scale war against the United States cannot be fought by slogans and propaganda campaigns alone.

If we are to fight a principled war against the main root and the mother cause of rebellions, corruptions, and oppressions, we will not have any other way but to recognize and expose all the hegemonist ways of the United States and imperialism as well as the other fronts the United States uses to attack Islam, the great Islamic ummah, and the oppressed masses of the world. (?Obviously, the implication of such an important duty should be explained and clarified for our own resistant nation and the other oppressed nations in terms of the enemy's political, economic, cultural, and military capabilities.) We also should draw up careful plans for an all-round and fundamental fight against it. I am sure that if the great leader of the revolution were to issue the order, the forces of the revolution and the cores of resistance inside and outside the country would organise suitable and calculated programs to make the financial, political, economic, and military interests the target of their struggle. Oppressed nations, and Islamic and liberation movements will draw up deep-rooted plans for this fundamental fight. That way, the world of Islam will rise in unison and will become a fire of the wrath and anger of the oppressed nations, in itself an example of the wrath of God, and will burn the United States, its allies, and all the colonialists of the East and West. Then, the United States will no longer allow itself to equip and strengthen Saddam, Israel, and Al Sa'ud in order to embark on aggressions, wars, and the slaughter of Muslims.

We are amazed that the American people, having sampled the bitter taste of colonialism and the crimes committed by the British, have allowed their government to commit such a crime, such bloodshed, on their behalf. I sincerely hope that, if the great leader deemed it fitting to issue orders to act, then the million-strong Muslims of the world would put their extraordinary financial and spiritual resources at the disposal of the war against the main enemy of Islam, the Koran, and the oppressed nations.

Finally, I pray for the success of all Muslims and for the oppressed of the world on all fronts. I pray for full health and a lengthy life for Your Excellency. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, 4 July 1988.

Khomeyni Replies

LD0407173288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Message from Imam Khomeyni to Ayatollah Montazeri on the U.S. downing of a passenger plane—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Ayatollah Montazeri, may God increase his blessings:

Your message had a soothing effect on the sufferings of all those who have sustained blows from the Arch Satan, the wicked United States. The liberation-seeking people of the world have always suffered at the hands of the superpowers, especially the criminal United States. If they do not strengthen their resolve to confront the worldwide blasphemy and infidelity, and the domineering United States, they will witness a crime every day. The noble Iranian people should be aware that today is the day of fighting against all the satans who waste the just demands of the barefoot masses of the world on having a good time and acquiring the weapons that insure their domination over the world of the hungary.

Our war today is not against Iraq and Israel; our war is not against Saudi Arabia and the shaykhs of the Persian Gulf; our war is not against Egypt, Jordan, or Morocco; our way is not against the eastern and western superpowers. Our war is the war between our ideology and the whole of oppression and cruelty. Our war is the war waged by Islam against all inequalities in the capitalist and communist worlds. Our war is the war waged by the barefooted people against the well-off, who always enjoy themselves, and against those privileged rulers of Islamic countries.

This war does not recognise weapons; this war is not limited to borders and countries; this war does not recognise homes, houses, defeat, or the bitter taste of shortages, poverty, and hunger. This war is the war of faith, the war of moral, ideological, and revolutionary values against the filthy world of bullying, money, and debauchery; our war is the war of sanctity, honor, and resistance against immorality. Our combatants breathe in the pure world of faith and belief. The Muslims of the world, who realise that the war is between Islam and oppression, will not leave the world devourers in peace. They will strike at all palace dwellers.

Your Excellency, who is one of the reserves of this revolution, should concentrate your time on the construction of a world full of magnanimity, through support for Mr Hashemi [name as heard]. The noble Iranian people also should understand that these days the filthy hands of the East and West are tied together in order to (?destroy) Islam and Muslims. We must not allow the efforts of our revolutionary children at the fronts to go to waste. In order to establish the rules of dear Islam, we must unite and move toward the victory of Islam strongly and with determination. The officials of the system must concentrate all their efforts toward the war. These days we should endeavor to create massive developments in all war-related issues. We must all be going toward the fronts for an all-out war against the United States and its lackeys. Today, any sort of doubt is treachery against Islam.

To ignore the issues of the war is treachery against the prophet of God, blessings be upon him and all his scion. I offer my valueless life to the warriors of the battlefronts. The explosion of the passenger aircraft is a warning bell for all air transport. We must try, with all our being, to stop such painful events.

I offer my condolences to all the families of those involved in this calamity and share their grief for the loss of their dear ones. I pray for your excellency and for all those who are trying to achieve the holy goal of the victory of Islam.

May God's peace and benediction be upon you.

[Dated] 4 July 1988,

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi Khomeyni

Official Reaction to Downing of Airbus

Khamene'i Blames Reagan

LD0407120988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1039 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with President Khamene'i by unidentified Tehran radio announcer; place not given—live]

[Text] [Announcer] Dear listeners, following the catastrophic missile attack by the U.S. fleet on the Iran Air passenger plane, which resulted in the martyrdom of 290 Iranian and foreign passengers of the plane, President Khamene'i took part in a direct telephone interview. The president is on the line and we ask his excellency to give us his views on the terrible U.S. crime in downing an Iranian Airbus, which resulted in the martyrdom of 290 passengers. Greetings Mr Khamene'i. Please express your views.

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Dear Iranian nation, brothers and sisters, the great tragedy of the attack on a passenger plane and the (?savage) killing of hundreds of men, women, and children passengers shows the U.S. mad rage and hatred toward our revolution and social system. It shows that the arch-Satan, faced with Islam, has plunged as far as the murky depths of the most savage crimes. It shows that the evil oppressive system has not been able to benefit from its propaganda, nor from its political and military tricks against Islamic Iran. Now, the United States finds no other way but violent and disgraceful terrorism in its hostility. It also shows the depth of the tragedy facing humanity today. That is, a country with its claims to civilization; with all its deceptive talk about human rights, aggression, and opposition to terrorism; makes use of the fruits of man's advances in such a disgraceful act, setting fire to hundreds of passengers flying in legal and usual airspace in such a savage and merciless way, leaving hundreds of grief-stricken families.

It is the U.S. Government and U.S. President Reagan in person which, in the name of the Iranian nation, I wish to declare criminals and murderers. This should be taken as a message from a revolutionary nation, bravely fighting for its views, freedom, and independence, to the liberated people of the world, to U.S. public opinion, and also to (?future) generations.

Dear Iranian nation, we have sacrificed many martyrs in our great struggle and in our effort to safeguard our honor and independence. We have paid a high price for this aim. We have been successful in our struggle up to now. The enemy's anger is an evidence of our victory. The horrifying and disgraceful crime committed by the U.S. yesterday is another evidence of the Arch Satan's weakness in forcing our nation to retreat from the political arena. With our spiritual force, which stems from our belief and our just stance, we will not bow out of the struggle against the arch-Satan. We are sure that we will allow the enemy the satisfaction of victory over Islam.

We wish to announce to the world that in order to safeguard its independence and its faith, our nation continues to be ready to fight bullying tactics of world arrogance and of u.s. aggression. This is a meek, yet brave and honorable struggle. History shows that this struggle will have the final victory. We are quite sure that the oppressive U.S. regime, given its vulnerability, will not be able to fight a faithful, brave, and God-fearing nation. It will be forced to admit its weakness and to retreat. We also wish to warn that the U.S. Government will have to suffer the consequences of its recent crime in the Persian Gulf. The responsibility for any incident as a result of this tragedy lies with the U.S. President in person.

I wish to express my commiserations to the presence of our great leader and father, and also to the entire Iranian nation, and especially to the berieved families, over the tragic and sad matrydom of a group of defenseless passengers. I pray to God to grant them patience, resistance, and peace of heart and mind. Peace be upon you all.

[Announcer] Thank you very much, Mr President.

Khamene'i Warns World Leaders

NC0507045488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has sent a message to the world's presidents and heads of state on the big tragedy of the U.S. fleet's downing of an Iranian passenger plane in the Persian Gulf.

In this message, the president points out that this U.S. crime has saddened the Iranian nation and the world's humanitarian peoples and has made them mourn. He adds that this crime also has roused a wave of rage and aversion toward the U.S. Government. The president states: While the U.S. leadership has not yet officially declared its war against Iran's Muslim, revolutionary, and independent people, it has, by resorting to this criminal act which followed its earlier aggressive actions, taken a serious step toward war with a revolutionary and Muslim nation.

Another part of the president's message to the world's heads of state says: We believe that if you and we, as well as all the independent nations, fail to show solidarity and to exert true efforts toward a basic step to prevent the illegal and hegemonistic wants and acts of the United States, and to wipe out the wishes to revive world hegemonism and the bullying tactics of the big powers, we will be forever answerable to the peoples of liberated and progressive countries and to history as a whole.

Iran's Muslim revolutionary and determined people will, for their part and by relying on the definite divine promises, base their determination to resist and to struggle until the [word indistinct] victory of the military. They also will hold the U.S. leadership, the U.S. President, as well as all the Americans who may remain silent in front of such a rare crime, responsible. Iran also considers it to be its definite right to avenge the bloodshed of the innocent children, men, and women.

It expects your governments and nations to take the suitable step to convey the message of oppression inflicted on Iran's freedom-seeking and revolutionary nation, and to condemn and reject the arrogant policies of the U.S. leadership. It is hoped that your excellencies' special attention will be drawn to this just right of the Iranian nation.

Further on Khamene'i Message

LD0507055088 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 5 Jul 88

["Khamene'i Warns Heads of State of Aftermath of U.S. Challenge"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran July 5, IRNA—In separate messages to heads of states Monday President Khamene'i said Iran's "revolutionary" people recognize it their undeniable right to revenge the blood of innocent people who lost their lives aboard an Iran Air Airbus on Sunday morning. He also called on world leaders to react properly to the U.S. hitting of the airliner over the Hormuz Strait, which he described as ruffianism aimed at intimidating nations and governments, and directed so as fester the international climate with a feeling of U.S. supremacy over all other nations.

Khamene'i said all past experience evidences that any location in any part of the world on which the Americans were present witnessed unrest and a convulsive situation, and that their presence in the Persian Gulf will be no exception to the previous experiences. He said the presence of the U.S. in the Persian Gulf and its arbitrary rule of engagement will inescapably pit "the entirety of the region and perhaps the whole world in the fire of a war fought on the one side by the United States."

The Iranian president said the U.S. hitting of the Iranian passenger plane over the Gulf of Hormuz Sunday was indisputably "part of a dirty strategy" in the region, and called on the world nations to act concertedly against U.S. show of power, and "bury the ambitions of the oppressor world governments for universal supremacy" or else take the blame before the humanity and carry it with themselves throughout the future history of mankind.

Musavi Warns of Consequences

LD0307210088 Tehran IRNA in English 2042 GMT 3 Jul 88

["Musavi Warns Washington Against Consequences of Its Latest Crime"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—In a statement issued Sunday, Prime Minister Husayn Musavi warned the U.S. that its latest crime against the Iranian people would only further arouse the abhorrence of "our united nation" against Washington. He also said America would not stay immune from the consequences of "this criminal act."

Musavi was referring to America's shooting down of an Iranian airliner with 290 passengers aboard over the Persian Gulf waters Sunday.

The U.S. first insisted that it had shot down an Iranian F-14 jet fighter but a Pentagon official later had to admit that USS Vincennes, an American cruiser put on station in the Strait of Hormuz Friday, had fired two missiles at the Iranian passenger plane after concluding that it was a "hostile aircraft." William Crowe who made the confession after a delay of nearly 12 hours, did not explain how, in broad daylight particularly, a passenger plane could be threatening.

"Our response to the U.S. is long-term preparation until victory and vindication of our great nation's rights," Musavi said in the statement issued to declare Monday, a day of public mourning to mark the tragic event.

The downing of the Iran Air plane with 290 passengers including scores of children and women aboard, came following a naval confrontation between the aggressive U.S. troops and Iranian forces in the Persian Gulf.

The U.S. Navy which had declared two days ago (Friday) that it was looking for a pretext to attack Iran's naval bases, opened fire on Iranian gunboats which were on their daily routine patrol mission on Sunday morning. The Iranians' boats returned fire and hit a U.S. helicopter while at the same time engaging American warships.

Minutes later the Iran Airbus appeared over the sky of the battle scene, en route from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy and was subsequently hit by two missiles fired from [USS] Vincennes. The U.S. cruiser's target was supposed to be an Iranian F-14 as the U.S. officials claimed earlier. Such contradictory remarks by the U.S. Administration had already been made in previous cases of confrontations between the two countries in the Persian Gulf.

Premier Musavi said "our first duty today is to expose America's crime in the world, and the U.S. should know that this crime of hers would further strengthen our nation's resolve to continue its resistance and Jihad (holy war). We will give America's response through a further mobilization of forces and a more extensive participation of the people in the war fronts."

"Now that the terrorist leaders of Washington, in continuation of their support for Saddam, have entered a more direct war with our nation, it is not difficult for us to tolerate new calamities on the path towards defeating falsehood and disgracing those who wrongly claim to be defenders of human rights," Musavi said, adding "We are prepared to pay the necessary price for preserving our independence and honor."

Elsewhere in his statement, Prime Minister Musavi said the leaders of the "Black (White) house," After claiming for a long time, to be advocates of the campaign against terrorism, have unveiled their true face in supporting terrorism and by attacking the passenger plane and killing 290 innocent people, proved how "desperate and passive" [as received] they are before the steadfastness of the great Iranian nation. "It is now up to the world public opinion to declare its judgement vis-a-vis this open war crime," he said.

"Yesterday, America's servants shed the blood of 400 of our innocent Hajj pilgrims during the Hajj rituals, and today the criminal U.S., on the threshold of the Hajj ceremony and with full knowledge, subjects our passenger plane to its missile attack," Musavi said.

In July last year, the Saudi police instructed by its American masters, opened fire on Muslim demonstrators in Mecca killing hundreds of them and injuring hundreds of others.

In conclusion the premier expressed sympathy with the relatives of the victims of the bloody catastrophe and urged the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture and Islamic Guidance to immediately put the documents related to the horrific crime at the disposal of world people.

Musavi Cables World Leaders

LD0507111888 Tehran IRNA in English 1051 GMT 5 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, 5 July 5, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi announced today that the presence of U.S. military fleet in the Persian Gulf has seriously endangered the security of regional nations. He said the U.S. has already several times violated Iran's territorial sovereignty.

In messages cabled to prime ministers and heads of councils of ministers of 24 countries, Musavi said the tension has practically escalated in the region since the U.S. fleet entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of protecting free shipping.

On Sunday a U.S. warship at the Hormuz Strait fired two missiles at Airbus A-300 of the Iran Air blasting the aircraft on the air with her 291 passengers.

Musavi said the Iranian Government considers the Reagan administration responsible for the crime, and called on his counterparts throughout the world to react properly to the incident and adopt seafeguards against repetition of such catastrophes in the future.

Velayati on 'Capital Crime'

LD0307172488 Tehran IRNA in English 1716 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf have committed a capital crime by shooting down an Iranian Airliner and martyring the 290 passengers and crew on board, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here today.

He said Washington "practically admitted the crime" by claiming that its troops had downed an Iranian warplane by firing missiles, whereas the plain fact is that no Iranian warplane was in that area at the time. "It was the Airbus (flight 655 enroute to Dubayy) which the U.S. missiles hit," he stressed.

Velayati said U.S. naval presence in the waterway has only served to exacerbate regional tension, and increase Washington's crimes in the region. "The U.S. is responsible for consequences of its barbaric massacre of innocent passengers," he made it clear.

The Iranian foreign minister called on world countries and international circles to clearly condemn the U.S. "capital crime" in order to halt continuation of such horrible crimes.

U.S. fleet in the region shot down an Iranian Airbus A-300 en route to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas this morning. No survivors have yet been found.

Velayati Letter to UN

NC0407050988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Jul 88

["Text" of letter from 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister, to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar; date not given]

[Text] Mr Secretary General: The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly informed international organizations in general, and Your Excellency in particular, by means of official statements, about the threatening and aggressive presence of U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf and the simultaneous danger this presence poses to Iran's sovereignty. The Islamic Republic also has warned against the repercussions which stem from these threats and aggression. Unfortunately, however, the disregard shown by the international bodies in general, and the United Nations in particular, to these warnings and to the continuing tension-creating presence of the U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf, has culminated in the missile attack by U.S. warships on a passenger plane of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As a result, the plane was shot down and all of the innocent passengers riding in it were killed.

Mr Secretary General, this aggressive attack by the United States on the passenger plane of the Islamic Republic of Iran overtly violates all international rules and regulations, especially clauses 1 and 2 of the 1944 Chicago Convention. This attack, which definitely has been carried out intentionally, has immensely endangered the safety of civilian aircraft routes in the region. By this aggressive act, the U.S. Government once again has proved that, despite its justification for its presence on the pretext of ensuring the safety of navigation in Persian Gulf waters, it aims to continue to create tension in the region.

This incident has also proved that the United States has no qualms about trampling on the sovereignty of countries and embarking upon all kinds of illegal acts, even attacks on passenger planes resulting in the deaths of innocent passengers, in order to attain this objective. This shows the U.S.' utter indifference to all human and international norms.

Mr Secretary General, the Islamic Republic of Iran, by stating these facts, requests Your Excellency, as the UN secretary general, openly to condemn the perpetrators of these atrocities and immediately to dispatch a team of experts to the area to investigate the incident. It is obvious that to disregard, or not be able to act on this legitimate request by the Islamic Republic of Iran will cause more unpleasant occurrences in the region, the consequences of which will be addressed directly to the U.S. Government and the United Nations.

Urges World Condemnation

LD0407173888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Following the horrific U.S. crime in attacking an Islamic Republic of Iran Airbus, Foreign Minister Velayati this evening addressed a group of foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaire residing in Tehran at the Foreign Ministry and described the details of that unprecedented crime. He called upon all peace-loving nations and governments, those supporting justice and what is right, and international bodies to strongly condemn the U.S.

The foreign minister said: We have repeatedly stated that the U.S. Government's interventions are a flagrant interference in the region's affairs and unequivocal support for the side that started the war and the agent of tension in the region, namely the Iraqi regime.

In another part of his remarks he said: It is now clear to everyone that the U.S. Government's measures in the Persian Gulf are based on no reason or logic, but purely on meaningless pretexts. Mr Velayati added: According to reports by the international media, the day before the incident the commander of the U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf clearly declared, and without hiding anything, that the United States was looking for an excuse to attack Iranian installations.

The foreign minister added: We declare that the consequences of the U.S. expeditionary force to and military interventions in the Persian Gulf—an example of which has been the downing of an Iranian passenger airliner—will be directed against the United States and those countries that have invited or facilitated its presence in the region.

The foreign minister stated: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran once again stresses that eliminating crisis and tension in the Persian Gulf, and preventing incidents of this kind, depend upon the speedy withdrawal of U.S. and foreign forces in general from the Persian Gulf. We call upon peace-loving leaders, those supporting justice and what is right, and international bodies to strongly condemn the aggressive U.S. Government for the horrific crime that has resulted in the death of hundreds of innocent men, women, and children, and to raise their voices against the U.S. Government's acts of aggression against nations around the world.

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD0307172788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Foreign Ministry statement—read by announcer]

[Text] In continuation of the aggressive and tension-creating presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, nearly 300 innocent and defenseless men, women, and children aboard an Islamic Republic of Iran Airways passenger plane were attacked and martyred over the Persian Gulf by the U.S. naval fleet. This missile attack, which blew the plane up in the sky, once again makes it clear to all that the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf creates tension and disturbs regional security. It makes the world understand that U.S. arrogance, in its attempts to safeguard its illegitimate interests, will stop at nothing, not even at the most savage acts such as attacks on passenger planes and killing hundreds of innocent passengers.

Although the arrogant U.S. Government, trying to escape the consequences of this savage crime, has claimed that it attacked an F-14 fighter plane, military advisers and experts are well aware of the false and ridiculous nature of this claim. This is not to mention that at the time of the attack, no Iranian fighters planes were in the area where the Iranian passenger plane was brought down.

The Foreign Ministry statement stresses that the Islamic Republic of Iran, while condemning this recent U.S. crime, announces that the United States bears responsibility for its consequences. International assemblies, peaceloving governments, and freedom-seeking people in the world are expected to denounce and condemn this anti-human U.S. action, which has resulted in the martyrdom of the innocent and defenseless airline passengers, and act according to their humane and legal duty.

Majlis Committee Condemns Crime

LD0407131888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Following the U.S. crime of downing an airliner of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Majlis Foreign Policy Committee has issued a statement condemning the horrific crime of the U.S. rulers in the Persian Gulf, describing it as the most shameless example of U.S. terrorism in the world. The statement stresses that the U.S. crime will not go unanswered, and says: How can the U.S. Administration justify this ugly action?

Majlis Writes to Khomeyni

LD0507130488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jul

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, during today's open Majlis session, 200 deputies sent a letter to Imam Khomeyni. Referring to the extensive and comprehensive plots hatched by the sworn enemies of Islam against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the attack by the U.S. fleet stationed in the Persian Gulf on the Iranian passenger airliner, they declared that alongside the combative combatants and self-sacrificing ummah, they stand, as ever, in the firm path of faith and Jihad, and that the grateful, patient, and indefatiguable people of Iran, obeying the decree of that Imam, are bravely ready to sacrifice their lives to gain God's satisfaction, establish Islamic foundations, and elevate God's message to its divine station.

In another part of the letter, referring to the meritorious appointment of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the acting commander in chief, they declared the readiness of the Majlis to take any measure to fulfil the clear and wise decrees of the Imam of the ummah. The people and the officials were called on to mobilize all human and supply facilities in order to decisively and speedily equip and fortify the fronts, and to place the war at the top of their priority list until final victory is attained.

The letter also condemned the savage attack by the aggressor U.S. fleet on the Iranian passenger airliner and the martyrdom of 290 innocent passengers, calling it the biggest contemporary air disaster. The letter said: We declare that the continued U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf; its blatant aggression against Iran's interests, rights, and national security; and its overt support for Arab reaction and Saddam's inhuman regime will not be tolerated under any circumstances. We do not consider the war against the Zionist regime of Iraq to be separate from the war and resistance against the world-devouring United States, the main enemy of the Islamic revolution.

Air Force Chief on U.S. Account

LD0407163588 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansour Sattari today accused the U.S. of intentionally downing an Iranian passenger airliner over the Persian Gulf Sunday morning

An Iran Air flight No 655 enroute to Dubayy from the southern port city of Bandar-e 'Abbas with 290 passengers and crew aboard was hit by two surface-to-air missiles fieed by the U.S. cruiser 'USS Vincennes' Sunday morning and exploded in mid-air, as it was cruising through international air traffic lane S-59.

Brigadier General Sattari lashed out at U.S. President Ronald Reagan for unabashedly defending the crime committed by his navy in the Persian Gulf as a 'proper action'. He also took to task Chairman of the Joint U.S. Chiefs of Staff Admiral William Crowe for telling a pack of lies in a bid to justify the inhuman crime.

Sattari, addressing a press conference here, said the Airbus A-300 Passenger jet got permission to fly from the control tower at 10:10 hours local time (06:40 GMT) and took off from Bandar-e 'Abbas Airport at 10:17 hours (06:47 GMT) heading for Dubayy.

At 10:24 hours (06:54), Sattari said, the plane was hit by two surface-to-surface missiles fired by the American cruiser 'USS Vincennes' and exploded in mid-air disintegrating and falling into Persian Gulf waters.

The air force commander also categorically denied a U.S. claim that flight 655 was straying from its international air traffic course when missile attacked by the American warship, and said almost daily Iranian airlines flies on this course—international air corridor S-59.

It is worth noting that the debris of the downed Airbus has been found well within this zone (26.43 degrees north, 56.3 degrees east).

The commander, blasting American officials for making 'contradictory' statements on the gruesome massacre, described as 'pure fabrication' a U.S. claim that its naval forces aboard the cruiser 'Vincennes' had mistaken the Iranian air liner for a F-14 jet fighter.

Sattari enumerated reasons which very well belie the American claim, as follows:

All airliners have identification radar systems which are turned on from the moment they take off in order to inform all radar-equipped units that they are civilian aircraft. In addition, they regularly inform ground units of their altitude.

Since the Iranian plane's identification radar system was on for 14 minutes, (ignited at 10:10 hours until the missile attack at 10:24 hours), the Americans were quite aware that it was a passenger aircraft.

It is quite easy to distinguish a huge Airbus passenger plane from a tiny F-14 jet fighter.

The air force commander, dismissing statements of American military experts that the crew of the cruiser 'USS Vincennes' had only four minutes to identify the type of aircraft, pointed out that they actually had 14 minutes to do so.

Sattari scoffed at a Pentagon claim that the Iranian passenger plane was taking hostile actions against the American cruiser, and said that according to international norms any plane trying either to fire missiles, dive towards the target, land paratroopers or flies at a low altitude with full speed can be regarded as a hostile aircraft.

None of the aforesaid definitions for hostile actions can be applied to the Iranian Airbus flight No 655 carrying 290 passengers and crew members, including 66 under 12-year-old passengers, he stressed.

Brigadier General Sattari concluded his interview by denying as 'untrue' another U.S. allegation that the American cruiser had fired heat-seeking missiles at an Iranian warplane. He said, on the contrary the U.S. missiles were radar-guided and when they were fired, none of the Iranian jet fighters was flying over the region.

Sattari, Majidi Comment

NC0407213488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1745 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Roundtable discussion with Brigadier General Mansur Sattari, commander of the Air Force; Mohammed Majidi, managing director and chairman of the management board of Iran Air; Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia, minister of roads and transportation, and unidentified moderator—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Moderator] Mr Sa'idi-Kia, what do you think the worldwide reaction to the downing of this plane will be?

[Sa'idi-Kia] [Passage omitted] Our criminal enemy, with his aggressive presence in the Persian Gulf, commits such crimes in order to combat the Islamic revolution. At first he tries to shrug off responsibility, but he is forced to buckle under (?international) pressure and has to admit to this crime. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Sa'idi-Kia mentioned the military implications of the incident, as the United States had said earlier that it could not identify the aircraft and that it only had 4 minutes for identification, as well as other similar allegations. Mr Sattari, could you give us some details of what the United States said about its mistake in identifying the aircraft?

[Sattari] [Passage omitted] Commercial or civilian aircraft are equipped with identification radar systems which are turned in on a special manner and emit waves. They identify themselves as civilian aircraft, and radar systems receiving these waves automatically gauge the altitude of the aircraft. The aircraft themselves announce this through electronic equipment. [passage omitted]

In view of all these factors, they cannot prove that they made a mistake in identification. Last night Admiral William Crowe tried to convince correspondents that they did not have enough time for identification, only 4 minutes. [passage omitted] These cannot be the reasons for failure to identify the aircraft, as they said that they had hit an F-14 and then they contradicted themselves. This is what they said last night. To hear this statement from the tongue of an expert, the chief of staff of the U.S. Armed Forces!

[Moderator] You mean the same Mr William Crowe!

[Sattari] This means that they are blatantly lying. That is clear. He did not believe what he was saying to the correspondents! [passage omitted].

Reagan himself announced that this was an appropriate act of self-defense. Mr Crowe announced that it was an answer to the hostile actions of the aircraft. Hostile actions have a special implication in international terminology, and we should pay attention to this. Hostile actions are when an airliner flies in the air and a fighter plane checks it and discovers it has bombs, or when it has missiles, or when it fires the missiles, or when it is landing paratroopers or is nose-diving toward its target, or it may be flying at a high velocity but low altitude and does not make contact with any source. This was not the case with this aircraft. It was in contact with the control tower for 10 to 15 minutes. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Mr Sa'idi-Kia, what could be the U.S. objective in this attack on a passenger plane? Of course, one of its objectives has been proved most definitely and through past experience, and that is its support of the Iraqi regime. What other motive could there have been?

[Sa'idi-Kia] Allow me to respond to this question in a general sense before I give a specific answer so that we can view it at a higher level and then pass judgment. The Islamic revolution has changed the political equilibrium of the world. World oppressors spearheaded by the United States have risen up against the Islamic revolution for the purpose of protecting their interests and consolidating, and they have initiated many plots to undermine the revolution. [passage omitted]

The United States is trying to mobilize all possible resources to combat the Islamic revolution. It attempts to remove the people from the scene or to weaken their resistance. It has embarked on various schemes in order to (?topple) our government and to deal blows to our economic installations or to our morale. This event is another in the series of these events. Praise be to God that our people have become more resistant with every blow. [passage omitted]

The answer to this dastardly crime will be given by our combatants of Islam and will result in making all of us stronger and more resistant in the face of these aggressive acts, God willing.

[Moderator] [Passage omitted] Mr Majedi, from a legal point of view what stand can the government of Iran adopt? That is, how can it vindicate its rights from the point of view of international norms and regulations?

[Majedi] Iran is a member of international associations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, which convenes annual sessions to discuss international regulations and international flight safety and security. These are issues of extreme importance in these conventions and associations. Yesterday, immediately after the occurrence of this incident by the criminal United States, when our airplane was hit, our country's airlines requested an extraordinary session to review the incident and asked for experts to come and assess the situation and submit a report.

Similarly, we have another international body, the International Air Transport Association, of which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a member. [passage omitted] We requested that they come and investigate the incident and prepare a report, from a legal point of view, on why the United States, which is also a member of these conventions, has committed such a heinous atrocity.

[Moderator] Mr Sattari, if possible, could we have a general assessment? We are a little short of time right now and have only 4 more minutes.

[Sattari] In view of the clarifications given, whether on the issue of the identification of the aircraft, on the hostile moves of a civilian airliner against a warship, on a flight at high speed or low altitude, or whether on other issues, such as a flight outside the international corridor or a warning—which are not acceptable at all—or the declaration of a war zone, two conclusions emerge. Nothing else can be said. The first, which the Americans say themselves and believe, is: This act was a mistake. They hit a civilian airliner by mistake. We wish to say that if this were so, they do not know how to control all this advanced equipment that they have spread out all over the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

That is, in practice, the Americans should announce that they are unable to control and command these units which are highly advanced and extremely dangerous. They cannot do it. They cannot control all this equipment in the middle of the sea in such a way that it does not strike at a civilian airliner. They should declare their inability to do so. Otherwise it means that they have gone berserk! This is why they have dragged civilians into blood and dust in such a manner. Then they should announce to all the countries that in an area where there are more than 100 flights [as heard], this is the kind of security that they have created for them! This is the atmosphere of safety which the U.S. warships have brought about. Tomorrow they will show the same inability with others, and then they will only apologize. This is the first conclusion.

The second is that, in our view, this was an intentional act. Their warship came inside the corridor and stationed itself under the flight corridor right in the civilian airplanes' path. They had 13 to 15 minutes to identify the airliner and they had the best electronic and communications equipment, but they hit our airplane, a civilian airplane. This is not justified in any way and in light of the information given it does not seem that this was merely an error. In both cases, it turns out that it was an overt crime which they perpetrated against innocent people.

[Moderator] Thank you for the trouble you have taken to come here and participate in this program. Dear viewers, in these last minutes of the program, I wish to take your leave until next time. [passage omitted]

Aviation Officials Comment

LD0407174388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1130 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Studio discussion with Brother Mohammed Majedi, managing director and chairman of the Management Board of the Iran Air, and Brother Ra'na'ifar, head of the State Civil Aviation Organization—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Dear listeners, as you are aware, as a result of the cowardly U.S. missile attack on an Iranian Airbus passenger airliner at 1022 yesterday morning, more than 290 passengers and crew of the plane were martyred. The government has called for a day of mourning today and 3 days of mourning were announced in Hormozgan Province. In connection with this tragedy, we (?deemed) it appropriate to discuss the issue with Brother Majedi, the director general and chairman of the Management Board of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air, and with Brother Ra'na'ifar, the head of the State Civil Aviation Organization. I am grateful to you Majedi and Ra'na'ifar for giving this opportunity to the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The United States has announced that the plane was not flying in the air corridor and was flying over the war zone. Most of our radio listeners and the people contact us on this question and demand that we must ask your views on this issue.

[Majedi] [Passage omitted] Since the United States is very frightened of the Islamic Republic and of a direct confrontation with us, it has resorted to some deeds which even it cannot justify; and it cannot justify this deed in the face of the world public and international organizations' reactions. Therefore, it resorts to spreading lies and baseless [words indistinct]; one example is their claim that the plane was flying outside the special zone allocated to passenger airliners. We invite international managers and experts to come and investigate the geographical coordinates of the plane's route.

To be exact, after taking off from Bandar-e 'Abbas, the plane flew along its usual route of (?A59), which is an axis of [words indistinct], and it was gradually gaining height. The plane took off exactly at 1015 local time and at 1023 it was reported [words indistinct]. It was gaining height along the axis, which is quite clear on the map and the experts can study it. The air route is clear and the plane could fly within 20 miles (?of this route). The plane was flying exactly in the middle axis of (?the air corridor) when it was hit by a missile. The plane was hit exactly over our own territorial waters, over Iran [words indistinct]; and all these prove precisely that the United States is talking nonsense and is trying to save itself from the embarrassment and the [word indistinct] created around it. That is why it raises these issues and we call upon international forums and [words indistinct] to come and investigate the matter and inform the world.

From the time the pilot took off until moments before being hit by a missile, he was in touch with the Bandar-e 'Abbas control tower. It is also clear when he (?lost contact) with the Bandar-e 'Abbas control tower. If the U.S. fleet had given any warning to the pilot, this should have been picked up and recorded by all the systems in the Bandar-e 'Abbas control tower, the telecommunication [word indistinct] center in Tehran which is related to the state Civil Aviation Organization, our own land-based stations, other parts of the world and also Dubayy, which the pilot was in contact with.

In addition, world experts are fully familiar with the black box which receives and records all the pilot's conversation with control towers and radar systems. The (?divers) are now looking for the box in the sea, that is, the black box. And since the pilot had been talking to the control tower of Bandar-e 'Abbas and everything appeared normal until he was hit by a missile, and since everything seemed natural and no emergency incident was reported—whereas on a previous occasions about 2 or 3 months ago a pilot received a warning and he contacted the control tower to ask for advice—it is crystal clear that the claim is not true. For, had he received a warning he would have been advised by the control tower either to (?change course) or to return. They would have done so had they felt threatened. The United States knows quite well that it is lying, but what can it do? It is helpless and has to concoct a story and spread the lie.

[Presenter] I would like to ask Ra'na'ifar's views on this issue too. Mr Ra'na'ifar: The United States has announced that the Iranian passenger plane was travelling at high speed and it would have been difficult to distinguish it from a fighter plane and they therefore fired missiles [words indistinct]:

[Ra'na'ifar] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I offer condolences to the families of the martyrs. Before answering this question [words indistinct] I must say that the United States is either fooling itself or is trying to resort to demagogy. The meaning of a warning is to identify a plane and call it by its name and warn it that it must change course. This is what is meant by warning. Either the United States had identified the plane and had warned it to change course, in which case it should not have resorted to weapons, in accordance with the international regulations. Even on the basis of Article 3 of the [word indistinct], which has been passed recently following the attack on a Korean passenger airliner on the United States own initiative.

The United States knows that it should not use weapons for this prupose. That is, even if we assume that they are telling the truth that they gave a warning to a passenger plane—this means they had identified it as a passenger plane. Nevertheless, they should not attack the plane. It therefore becomes clear that either the United States does not know what it is talking about, or it is trying to deceive people. Concerning their claim of giving a warning, either they did not give any warning at all, or if they did give a warning they admit that they did something wrong.

For on the basis of the recurring [mikarrar] Article 3, which was passed recently, the United States has accepted that it cannot attack a passenger plane under any circumstances. In this part of my comments, I only wanted to add something to the remarks made by our brother Majedi to complete his remarks.

Concerning their claim that the plane had been flying at a high speed, we know that on the basis of international regulations Airbus planes are classed as widebodied aircraft. It was carrying 290 passengers, 18.3 tonnes of petrol and some luggage. The total weight of the luggage, passengers and petrol was about the maximum load it could carry. The total duration of its flight was 7 minutes and during this period it was gaining height. Under such conditions, the plane could not even reach its allowable speed. How could it then travel at a speed higher than the maximum speed permitted? Under the said conditions it was travelling at a speed of about 250 nautical miles.

That is, at approximately that speed; and at such a speed even an illiterate person could have ready, sorry could have seen, the symbol of Islamic Republic Airlines with naked eyes.

When they say they could not see, that the plane was cruising at a high speed, or that they mistook it for an F-14 fighter plane, they do not know whether they are talking as experts or as ignorant people. The United States manufactured the F-14 fighter plane and knows its maneuver ability, ultrasound speed and size. It is also involved in manufacturing Airbus planes and knows its widebodied design, maneuver ability and other specifications. How is it possible, then, for even an ordinary person to make such a mistake?

[Presenter] (?Mr Ra'na'ifar what is your reaction) [words indistinct] now that Reagan has admitted that this has taken place? He has said that the United States acted in self defense, what is your comment on this issue?

[Ra'na'ifar] Let us suppose that they acted in self defense. How could they kill a number of human beings who were trapped in a plane? They were not on the ground to say that they could escape. There were 290 people trapped in the plane. Even by firing a small bullet at the plane, a small hole will appear and pressure change will explode the plane. This not an achievement [passage indistinct]

[Majedi] As was mentioned, the recurring Article 3, and various conventions signed by the United States make a references to three cases. The convention passed on 14 September 1963, The Hague convention of 16 December (?1980) and the [word indistinct] convention of 23 September 1971, were all signed by the United States and all these conventions stress the need to respect all air routes, particularly the commercial and passenger routes. No one has the right to attack a passenger airliner or endanger its security and safety. How can the United States, which signed these conventions, attack our passenger airliners? It knows that a passenger plane has no means of defending itself and cannot carry out a military task.

On the other hand, when the Soviet Union attacked and downed a Korean airliner, the Soviet Union claimed that the plane had been flying over its territory and was violating the USSR's airspace. After that the United States demanded an amendment to the Article 3 [word indistinct] and wanted to set a precedence in the world that passenger planes should not be attacked under any circumstances. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Says U.S. 'Will Pay'

LD0407135988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] The UN representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran has said in various interviews with U.S. television networks: The Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept the U.S. apology, and considers it has the right right to respond most forcefully to this U.S. crime. Mohammad Ja'far Mahalati noted the death of nearly 300 people, including 66 children, and asked the U.S. people to clarify their response to this crime committed by the U.S. Administration. He said: Today the people of the United States and the world should realize who is the terrorist, the pirate, and the savage. He called it an obvious example of the [word indistinct] acts of the U.S. Administration, saying: By committing this crime, the United States has taught everyone that civilian citizens will not be safe during clashes. The United States will pay heavily for this aggression.

Envoy on UK Reaction

LD0407121288 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1147 GMT 4 Jul 88

[By John Smith, PRESS ASSOCIATION lobby correspondent]

[Excerpts] Iran's representative in London said today he was "dismayed" by Mrs Thatcher's response to the Gulf airline tragedy. But in an apparently conciliatory move, he added her reaction was "purely political" and "hasty" and would have to be reviewed when the full facts become known.

Mr Mohammed Basti, Iranian charge d'affaires, told a London press conference: "This response dismayed us, and not only us, but the peace-loving people of the world."

Mr Basti added that he hoped to meet British Foreign Office officials later this afternoon and planned to bring an Iran Air technical expert to provide evidence that the American shooting down of the Airbus 300 with the loss of 298 lives could not have been an accident.

Mr Basti also called for the American naval personnel responsible to face court martial.

He predicted an Iranian response to the American action of the "same magnitude" and said the fate of the U.S. hostages was now an "open question."

[Passage omitted] The U.S. Ambassador to Britain, Mr Charles H Price, had defended the decision to open fire, saying the crew of the warship Vincennes "were confronted with a situation where their own lives were at risk."

But Mr Basti told the press conference later: "In the history of our country, this massacre, this barbaric act, will never be forgotten.

"In spite of the justifications so far presented by different Reagan administration personnel there are solid reasons to believe that it was a deliberate act of massacre.

"This deliberate crime will further intensify the hatred of the Iranian people against the Reagan administration."

He added: "This savage act was a crime against human beings as a whole."

Asked for his reaction to the British Government's statement expressing "profound regret" but backing America's right to defend its forces, Mr Basti replied: "This response dismayed us. Not only us but the peace-loving people of the world.

"But of course I believe the statement made by Mrs Thatcher was a purely political statement, not based on the facts and figures and I believe one has got to review the statement once the facts come out.

"Such reaction, hasty reaction, will only prove political weakness because otherwise there was no reason to give support to such kind of action when even Mr Reagan was much more responsive."

Asked whether Iran would retaliate, Mr Basti said it first wanted to prove its case before the world and was encouraged by the response so far. But Iranian lives had been lost. On the basis of world reaction "we will in due course reach a response to the American crimes.

"I do not disclose what kind of response it would be from our side but naturally, after a period, a response of the magnitude of the crime."

On the fate of the American hostages, Mr Basti said: "This is a matter between our people and the American Administration. We are always advocating that if our people are left to their own fate and if there's goodwill by the other side there will be goodwill by our side.

"We have made it clear in the last few months that a positive attitude will be responded to positively."

Mr Basti sidestepped questions about the impact of the tragedy on Iran's relationship with Britain or the fate of the British hostages.

Mr Basti, it was later disclosed, arrived shortly after the press conference at his London embassy, for talks at the Foreign Office. Sources there, however, said the meeting was to discuss compensation for damage to diplomatic buildings. Britain and Iran are close to a settlement over counter claims, believed to involve a net British payment of 1.8 million pounds to Iran.

Mr Basti, however, had said he intended to put Iran's case over the Gulf incident to Foreign Office officials. He added there were "solid reasons" to prove the American action was deliberate. Iranian pilots were very experienced and such a technically advanced aircraft as the Airbus would automatically identify itself to warships. [passage omitted]

London Envoy on Thatcher

LD0407220888 Tehran IRNA in English 2045 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 4, IRNA—The people of Iran are "dismayed" by Prime Minister Thatcher's comments supporting the U.S. shooting down of a civilian airliner, Iran's charge d'affaire to London said Monday.

Medhi Akhondzadeh was speaking at a press conference Monday and subsequently took the issue up at a meeting at the British Foreign Office, where a spokesman said it was "still sticking by" the prime minister's statement.

In her statement Sunday night, Thatcher backed President Reagan's attempt to justify the U.S. Navy's action by saying that the U.S. military forces had a right to engage to "defend" themselves and in doing so apparently tried to pass the blame onto Tehran.

Meeting the British Foreign Office Middle East Department Head Robert Young Monday, Akhondzadeh said Thatcher's statement was a repeat of Ronald Reagan's.

"It was regrettable that the prime minister of an independent country has kept silent in the face of this apparent American crime which led to the death of 290 innocent people because of political considerations," Akhondzadeh told the British official according to an Iranian Embassy statement.

"In the history of our country, this massacre, this barbaric act will never be forgotten," he said at his press conference.

Despite the various justifications the Reagan Administration has tried to present, there were "solid reasons to believe that it was a deliberate act of massacre" and will only intensify Iran's abhorrence towards the United States.

The British position was also criticised by some parliamentarians, including a member of a British delegation that visited Tehran two weeks ago.

The Social Liberal Democrat Lord Tordoff said he believed the prime minister's statement would give credence to the Iranian belief that British policy was a "xerox copy of the American's."

"It is not a reasonable mistake to shoot down an airliner like that," he added. "If the technology is so flawed that an airliner gets shot down by mistake then people ought not to make decisions on the basis of that technology."

George Robertson, member of House of Commons and foreign affairs spokesman for the opposition Labour Party expressed concern for the British naval presence in the region and called for "immediate action" to prevent "this turning to another Sarajevo."

The assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his wife in Sarajevo in 1914 led to the First World War.

Also MP and member of the Conservative Middle East Council Robert Adley said "the West is going to pay a very heavy price for this. I only hope, just as we were working towards improving relations with Iran..." [sentence as received]

IATA, ICAO To Investigate Attack on Plane

LD0407212788 Tehran IRNA in English 1834 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 4, IRNA—Director General of International Air Transport Association (IAEA) Gunter Eser today expressed deep condolences over the U.S. attack on an Iranian passenger plane.

In response to a letter by Iran Air Managing Director Mohammad-Reza Majidi, Eser said IATA is concerned on military threats against civilian aircraft and called on all countries to take necessary measures to prevent such incidents.

According to the Eser's letter, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has also called on all related countries to quickly provide ICAO with necessary information for filing a claim and protest in this regard.

The U.S. naval fleet in the Persian Gulf shot down an Iranian Airbus A-300 (Flight 655) en route from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubai Sunday morning, martyring 290 innocent passengers including 66 children.

Larijani, Delegation Depart for Austria

LD0307151988 Tehran IRNA in English 1435 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 3, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani left Tehran for Vienna, Austria, at the head of a delegation.

The delegation is to hold talks with high-ranking Austrian officials.

Larajani Comments on 'Crime'

AU0407184388 Vienna Television Service in German 1730 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Report on 4 July statement made in Vienna by Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Larijani on the shooting down of a passenger plane by the U.S. Navy in the Persian Gulf; statements in English with superimposed German translation in quotation marks]

[Text] "First of all, our plane was in a commercial route. The Airbus was not outside the normally used route. In Iran's view, this is not a war zone. Dozens of civilian aircraft fly there every day," the Iranian deputy foreign minister says. It was an act of pure terrorism. The U.S. crime is worse than that of the Soviets 5 years ago, because at that time the Korean jet was at least over Soviet territory, he states.

"The Americans are provocateurs in the Persian Gulf. They claim they are there to protect civilian navigation and now they even endanger civilian air traffic. They behave as if they were at war with Iran." Iran will respond appropriately. Its national security has been attacked, it has a right to self-defense. But Iran has never attacked a civilian aircraft, Larijani says.

Deputy Foreign Minister Larijani makes an urgent appeal to the world public: "It is our right, an act of self-defense—our national security has been threatened—it is our right to make the proper response." The UN Security Council should deal with the issue, condemn the act, and make sure that something like this never happens again.

Comments on U.S. 'Terrorism'

LD0407200188 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 4, IRNA—The Islamic Republic will use its rights according to international law in responding to the U.S. shooting of the Iranian airliner over the Persian Gulf Sunday, a senior Iranian official said Monday.

"We will certainly never forego our rights according to international law to defend ourselves against such actions," Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Larijani said.

Larijani, who is in charge of European and American affairs, rejected Washington's assertion that the missile attack on the Airbus A-300 was a mistake and said U.S. forces in the region have lost their minds.

"On the one hand they (Americans) claim they have the most powerful technology, but on the other hand the people on the ground witnessed the attack with their own eyes, so how could such a well equipped navy fail to differentiate between a civilian and a military plane?" he questioned.

"This shows that others in the region have to protect themselves from the U.S. forces who claim they have come to give protection. It appears that they (Americans) in the region are in a state of hysteria, madness and paranoia," said Larijani.

"How could they bring security to the region? Can those who have come to create security be so insecure themselves?" he asked.

The deputy foreign minister, speaking to IRNA by telephone from Geneva [as received], called on the international community to take a firm stand against the unmanly American act that led to the death of 290 passengers and crew members.

Asked whether Iran would ask for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council, Larijani said the Council had responsibility to act whether Iran made a request or not.

"Although they have shown in the past that they have been ineffectual in dealing with aggressions and the rights of peoples, nevertheless our belief is that they should act according to their responsibilities," he added.

On Moscow's position, the deputy foreign minister called on all nations including the Soviet Union to take "firmer and clearer" stands on the U.S. missile attack and "join wide efforts to realize the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region."

Larijani concluded by describing the American shooting of Iran Air Flight No 655 enroute to Dubai from Bandar-e Abbas as "the most complete manifestation of terrorism" and noted that "the Islamic Republic has been the strongest opponent of terrorism and is itself a victim of terrorism."

Tehran Media Reaction to Incident Reported

'Horrendous' Crime Criticized

LD0307113388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. This morning, in an inhuman act, the aggressive U.S. forces downed an Iranian Airbus 300 airliner as it flew over the Persian Gulf.

According to reports the airliner was carrying 290 passengers and crew on its flight from Bandar 'Abbas to Dubayy. The U.S. forces' attack against the Iranian airliner took place during an engagement between Iranian boats and the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. fleet used helicopter gunships to attack Iranian patrol boats in the Persian Gulf and began a clash. At the same time, the Iranian airliner, which was flying past in Persian Gulf airspace, became the target of the U.S. fleet and was downed.

This new crime by the United States, which ranks among the most horrendous it has ever committed, comes in the wake of a series of various conspiracies by that country.

Ever since the U.S. forces entered the Persian Gulf, it was obvious to all that the U.S. enmity with the Iranian Islamic revolution had entered a new phase. The U.S. Administration, seeing that the Iraqi regime was caught in a devastating predicament, placed itself virtually on the side of the Iraqi regime by bringing its vast naval fleet to the Persian Gulf. Through its mischiefs, it has tried to intimidate the Islamic Republic of Iran to force it to compromise.

In any case, the U.S. crime today in downing an Iranian Airbus is a new development in the Persian Gulf region and fresh proof of U.S. crimes and mischiefs, crimes which reveal the true nature of the U.S. more than ever.

Commentary Vows Revenge

LD0307144488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1325 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The Islamic revolution ended the hegemonistic presence of U.S. imperialism in Iran and paved the way for the general mobilization of the oppressed in the region against the Arch Satan. That is why a series of arrogant plots against Islamic Iran started in 1979-80.

Economic blockade, military intervention, and counterrevolutionary coups d'etat were among the arrogant attempts made in 1979 and 1980 against the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

In 1987-88, following Iran's strategic, military victories, U.S. military forces were stationed in the Persian Gulf so that they could take up their duties of protecting the Ba'thist rulers of Iraq and reactionary forces in the region. The resistance of the revolution's troops against 100 foreign warships over the past year has been a great symbol of the patience and steadfastness of the Islamic Republic in line with its ideological goals.

The coordinated U.S. and Iraqi attacks on Iran's economic and military facilities in the Persian Gulf are manifestations of this imperialist alliance against the revolution.

The downing of Iran's passenger airliner in the Persian Gulf and the martyring of dozens of Muslim people testify to the deep hostility and hatred—in any form—of the United States toward the Islamic revolution, and proves its hatred for those fighting for Islam.

We will not leave all these U.S. crimes unanswered. The combatants of Islam proved in their 21 April to 21 May resistance that they will combat arrogance in the Persian Gulf and corner the ring leaders of arrogance. Today, the United States clearly revealed its ugly face; it wishes to block the path of the Islamic revolution at any cost. But we will stand up to the plots hatched by the Arch Satan and exact vengeance from the criminal mercenaries for the pure blood of our martyrs. Throughout the 8-year holy defense, we have proved that we will not compromise and will defend the rights of the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic's system.

U.S. 'Coverup' Criticized

LD0307174088 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 3 Jul 88

["U.S. Desperately Trying To Cover-up Crime of Shooting Down Airbus"—IRNA headline]

[Text] London, July 3, IRNA—American officials are strenuously trying to distance themselves from shooting down an Iranian airliner in the Persian Gulf Sunday, by claiming that they fired at an Iranian warplane.

Pentagon officials are reportedly acknowledging that an Airbus went down with 290 passengers and crew on board in the area, but obstinately maintain that they hit an Iranian F-14 as an excuse of covering up their dastard [as received] crime.

Iran has categorically rejected the incorrect U.S. claim by pointing that no Iranian warplane was in that area at that time.

It is also worth noting that downing of Iran Airlines flight 655 enroute to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas was in the exact location the U.S. claims to have shot down an "F-14" and around the same time (10:30 hrs).

Military analysts here have repeatedly warned that with such a U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and its notorious record of aggression, it was only a matter of time before a major tragedy occurred.

The American fleet has already provoked several incidents since its military build-up less than a year ago that have only confirmed that its aims are more to do with gunboat diplomacy against Islamic Iran than any pretense of upholding the so-called safety of navigation.

Some reports had forecast further U.S. mischieves [as received] following the announced stationing Friday in the Strait of Hormuz of the USS Vincennes cruiser which is thought to have been involved in the incident that brought down the Airbus.

The Pentagon is now seen as hesitant and saying that it is rechecking the facts before finally admitting to its latest crime against Iran.

'Unlawfully Shed Blood'

NC0407065088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0540 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The criminal United States should know that it will never be able to wrest the fortitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran as a result of a missile attack on an airliner of this noble and patient nation. Karbala' and 'Ashura have taught us the lesson of fortitude, which we will teach it to all the tyrannized nations. The frivolous echelons and their servile generals will never have the courage even to raise their heads before our faith and belief. They will not be able to prevent the proliferation of these aspirations and this revolution even with the most so-called modern warships. This is something of which all the criminal U.S. officials and sailors and the ignorant palace dwellers in the Persian Gulf are fully aware.

Yes, O criminal United States! Our country is ready for martyrdom! [passage omitted] The military presence of the Arch Satan and the followers of its disgraceful policy in the Persian Gulf are themselves witnesses to the powerful presence of our movement on the international scene. The influence of our major Islamic movement in all of the Muslim countries indicates the widespread influence of this revolution's culture. Those who try to preserve Saddam by attacking an airplane which, in international terms, is safe in all the skies of the world, and who bare their fangs and talons at us along with all the other international bloodsuckers, themselves know that we have risen with the blessings of the blood of martyrs, who have achieved a lofty status, so that we may initiate a new trend in the world and that we may topple the palaces of tyranny on the heads of the tyrants!

It is for this reason that the presence of the Islamic revolution is the most dangerous power confronting the enemies of humanity. The criminal United States should know that the unlawfully shed blood in the disaster of 3 July 1988 will be revenged in the same bloodspattered sky over the Persian Gulf!

O criminal United States! We will stand steadfast until the end to preserve the values of our movement and the ideals of our martyrs. We consider the attainment of martyrdom as the quintessence of our existence and desires! [passage omitted]

Attack Shows U.S. 'Malice'

NC0407120588 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 1028 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] An Iranian Airbus civilian airliner with 298 passengers, including more than 60 children, on board came under a missile attack from one of the ships of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf near Hengam Island yesterday. The Iranian plane was cruising in international airspace between Al-Sharijah and Bandar 'Abbas on a routine flight. This new U.S. aggression led to the destruction of the Iranian plane, which crashed in international waters killing all of its passengers.

Immediately after this painful incident took place, the Pentagon denied the report about the U.S. missile attack on an Iranian civilian airliner. The U.S. military spokesman claimed that the missile had been fired at an Iranian F-14 aircraft. A few hours later, however, the U.S. authorities denied this official statement, continuing its oscillating stand. The U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff declared that what had taken place was a defensive measure. He added that the U.S. Government regrets what happened, but at the same time asserts that the incident was merely a defensive action.

These conflicting official statements and stands only serve to show the extent to which U.S. hostility toward the Iranian revolution and toward Iran's Muslim people has reached. They show that the enemy of peoples does not hesitate to commit any crime, regardless of how ugly it is, against our Muslim people. On the other hand, the U.S. stand also shows the malice, lies, and deep-rooted crimes that characterize the Reagan administration. From the beginning, the U.S. authorities denied that the incident had taken place. They then fabricated another explanation; namely, that the Iranian plane was a military one. When the debris of the U.S. missile was found, the Reagan administration was forced to admit the incident and justified it as a defensive measure.

We have the right to ask the U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff about the logic behind the policy of defending thousands of his soldiers, who confronted a civilian airliner thousands of miles from U.S. borders and attacked it with missiles in the Persian Gulf, and whether this plane constituted such a real threat to the Western fleets, while carrying 298 innocent civilian passengers, that he dared to claim that the measure was merely taken in self-defense? The recent U.S. aggression is not only void of any military value but is, in fact, considered another scandal of U.S. criminal practices. If the world's conscience is alert and alive, and if international circles place a value on human rights, then the time has come for denouncing and protesting the crimes of this reckless administration.

There is a third point that must be noted; namely, that the U.S. administration has claimed for a long time that its fleets are in the Persian Gulf to maintain that waterway's security and stability and to isolate it from all the tensions in the area. However, reality has shown and continues to show that the U.S. presence in these sensitive waters has led to more tension throughout the region. It is now timely and appropriate for U.S. allies, particularly the West European countries, to ask Washington a logical question: How long will it continue to carry out biased and haphazard policies, thus exposing its interests and those of its allies to danger?

The Islamic world as well as all the peoples of the free world today realize that Arab reaction, particularly the Hejazi and Iraqi regimes, in coordination with the Reagan administration, are constantly endeavoring to contain and eliminate the Islamic revolution. The bloody massacres committed by the Al-Sa'ud regime against the pilgrims of God's holy places last year; the Ba'thist-Zionist Iraqi regime's use of chemical weapons and its open boasting of this; the military presence of imperialism in the Persian Gulf; the constant danger to the security of these strategic waters; and the missile attack on an Iranian civilian airliner—all these are signs that prove and confirm the extent of coordination between Arab reaction and the Reagan administration.

In such circumstances, the Islamic Republic in Iran underlines its firm determination to continue the sacred defense of the sanctity of Islam and Muslims. It is depending on God's help and will and on the belief of millions until the enemy is broken and is completely eliminated. Victory is only for the patient believers. God's peace and blessings be with you.

'Abominable' U.S. Nature

NC0307211188 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1815 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Today the criminal United States committed a horrific crime in the Persian Gulf, thus adding yet another black page to the long list of its crimes. With this savage act, which does not conform to any principle or logic, the United States further showed its abominable nature. It showed that the only law to which it stays faithful is the law of the jungle, and nothing else. This is a law which considers it acceptable that hundreds of innocent men, women, and children are massacred in order to quench the thirst for rancor of the blood-thirsty executioner, a law which does not respect humanity in any way and obeys only the commands of crime and maliciousness.

Yes, the United States supports this kind of a law. Is it not true that the United States today kills peace- and freedom-seekers in the four corners of the world in the name of peace and freedom, and sacrifices the justice-seekers of the world for its unquenchable covetousness in the name of justice and human rights?

This is the true face of the Arch Satan, and our nation has known this face for years now. Therefore, to our nation such incidents are not unexpected. We extend our condolences to the relatives of the victims, as well as to each and every member of the noble Iranian nation, on this heart-rending incident.

Tehran Cites Foreign Reportage, Reaction

Reagan Remarks Cited

LD0307190288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Excerpt] U.S. President Reagan has officially admitted that the Iranian passenger plane was downed by U.S. warships. The Central News Unit reports that following the U.S. fleet's downing of an Iranian passenger plane carrying more than 290 passengers over the Persian Gulf and contradictory comments by U.S. officials, U.S. President Reagan admitted that U.S. warships had fired at, and downed, a passenger plane in the Persian Gulf.

Citing REUTER, the Central News Unit adds: Reagan has announced that U.S. warships brought down an Iranian passenger plane flying over the Persian Gulf, but he added that the U.S. forces had downed the passenger plane in self-defense. [passage omitted citing AFP report on U.S. chairman of the joint chiefs of staff's comments]

Reagan Reaction Condemned

LD0407082588 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 4, IRNA—Analysts, politicians, commentators and even members of the U.S. Congress question President Reagan's statement of trying to pass the blame for the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus over the Persian Gulf Sunday.

The civilian airliner carrying 290 passengers and crew was attacked by two missiles from one of America's most expensive warships USS Vincennes costing some dollars 1 billion and question his excuse that a mistake was made.

Several U.S. congressmen, including Jessie Jackson, have already called for a review of rules of engagement by American forces in the Persian Gulf and former CIA chief Admiral Stansfield Turner has called for a clearer act of contrition from the White House.

Most British newspapers refer to the tragedy as an "appalling blunder" by the U.S. Navy and the London INDEPENDENT describes Reagan's justification as inadequate that denies that it was possibly foolish, overly aggressive, panicky or mere revenge. [sentence as received]

"A more generous expression of distress" would be in order, it said, coupled with perhaps an indication that the investigation will be more than a mere formality.

Commentators and analysts alike see Reagan's excuse and his attempt to pass over the blame to Iran as incomprehensible and contemptible given not only the high-tech radar systems on the Vincennes but that the airliner was on a routine flight and further would have had data from AWAC's surveillance planes based in Saudi Arabia.

Thames Television in London had been set to run a program on American independence Monday but now feel that this would be "inappropriate" and intend to replace it with a discussion on it blowing a civilian airliner out of the sky.

U.S. Envoy in UK Cited

LD0407115888 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 4, IRNA—The American Ambassador to London Charles Price has denied that U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf are trigger-happy and that the killing of 290 passengers on board an Iranian Airbus was not an act of inhumanity.

"This was not an offensive action," he said. "I cannot accept the fact that people are gung ho if there is an interpretation that suggests that those military personnel on board (U.S. warships) are just simply waiting there for an opportunity."

Price was speaking on British television Monday following the downing of an Iranian airliner by American forces in the Persian Gulf and further rejected charges that the U.S. had been deliberately upping the stakes in the region.

"I don't think we have been raising the stakes consistently ... The only thing we have ever attempted to do is to see to it that our presence is there for the purpose of protecting the freedom of navigation," he maintained.

The British press has been comparing the tragedy with the Soviet downing of a Korean passenger plane in 1983, but the U.S. ambassador rejected any similarity with the earlier incident that President Reagan had described at the time as an "act of inhumanity."

The Soviet shooting was followed by a barrage of U.S. condemnations that lasted weeks, with Secretary of State George Schultz saying that Washington could "see no excuse whatsoever" for the appalling incident. In comparison Reagan said his shooting down was a mere "tragedy."

The London GUARDIAN Monday thought that the U.S. excuse for its action as self-defence was rather charitable and questioned if the American Navy "should be allowed out with its panoply of nuclear weapons."

"The author of the U.S. Navy's rule of engagement in the (Persian) Gulf should be cashiered at once as a service of mankind," it demanded. The "greatest navy in history" was behaving as a "pugnacious teenager spoiling for a fight."

The paper went on to ask why the American Navy made "such crass mistakes" and if the plane had been Soviet would it have had a doomsday ring. An "early court martial" was the very least that should be expected.

Thatcher Condolences Cited

LD0407051988 Tehran IRNA in English 0513 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 4, IRNA—In sending her condolences to the bereaved families of 290 passengers and crew killed in a U.S. missile attack on an Iran Air airliner, the British prime minister is more direct than even President Reagan in trying to pass the blame to Iran.

"We fully accept the right of forces engaged in such hostilities to defend themselves," she said in a released statement Sunday and went on to suggest that Iran started hostilities with the U.S. in the preceding clash and that the airliner was posing a military threat.

"We understand that in the course of an engagement of an Iranian attack on the U.S. force, warnings were given to an unidentified aircraft apparently closing with a U.S. warship," Thatcher said.

The U.S. President in expressing his sympathy said that it appeared a "proper defensive action" by one of his most sophisticated warships in downing the A-300 airbus over the Persian Gulf and fired to "protect itself against possible attack."

The normal procedure for a warship is to identify aircraft by radar or electronically by sending a signal that triggers a transponder giving even such detail as flight number, but the U.S. has yet made no mention of this in its inquiries.

In Britain, opposition Labour leader Neil Kinnock has called the U.S. hitting of the Airbus a "nightmare account" of a dreadful misfortune that seems inevitable with the use of high-tech equipment and has tabled a motion for an official parliamentary statement Monday.

Comparisons have already been drawn with the Soviet downing of a Korean airliner in 1983 that Reagan described as an "act of barbarism," but has now been warned himself about showing some contrition about his own barbarity.

Chairman of the British Foreign Committee, David Howell, who has just finished a study on Iran, said Iran's response to the tragedy depended upon whether the U.S. would be "totally contrite and admittedly totally open" or whether there was a "cover-up or a fudge of any kind."

Foreign Correspondents Invited To View Wreckage

LD0307213588 Tehran IRNA in English 2030 GMT 3 Jul 88

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran Airways has invited foreign correspondents to go to Bandar-e 'Abbas in order to be able to report on the signs and remainders of the U.S. crime in attacking the Iranian passenger plane.

Foreign correspondents are allowed to take photographs and films and prepare reports from the remains of the plane and the corpses of those martyred in this tragic event.

Velayati Meeting With U.S. Official Denied

LD0207115788 Tehran IRNA in English 1127 GMT 2 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 2, IRNA—A spokesman of the Foreign Affairs Ministry in a statement issued Saturday categorically denied a report by the Beirut-based Arabic weekly AL-SHIRA' claiming that Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati had recently met with U.S. ambassador to the UN.

The spokesman said that such rumors were spread by agents of world oppressors and Zionism with the objective of damaging the prestige of the Islamic Republic of Iran and are nothing but pure lies.

U.S. Silent on Reports of Downed Helicopter

LD0407212288 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] American military and political officials are still silent about the downing of an intruding American chopper during yesterday's conflict in the Hormuz Strait, despite the passage of 1 day. Based on the same report, the chopper, which had taken off from an American warship yesterday morning to attack the Iranian boats, was targeted with a missile launched by the boats of the Iranian combatants, and was downed in the Persian Gulf waters.

Informed sources believe that within the next few days the American administration will be forced to admit this news with the continuation of search operations at present underway by various Iranian teams deep inside the Persian Gulf waters, and after finding the corpses of the crew members or the wreckage of the chopper.

Pakistan

President 'Appalled' Over Iranian Plane Downing

BK0407115088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has conveyed his deepest sympathies and condolences to the people and the Government of Iran on the tragic incident of shooting down of an Iranian civil airliner which resulted in a colossal loss of life. In a message to the Iranian president, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the president said he was appalled and grieved beyond any measure by the heartrending news of the tragedy. He said the poignancy of the enormous tragedy is apparent in the fact that those who perished in it were innocent children, women and men. He said the circumstances surrounding the incident make it both highly regrettable and reprehensible. He urged the Government of the United States to initiate a full inquiry into the incident and duly punish those responsible for this unpardonable deed.

The president, at the same time, underscored the need for outside forces in the Gulf to de-escalate their activities and to desist from acts which lead to further aggravation of tension in the region and intensification of Iran-Iraq war.

Embassy Official, Family Dead

BK0407153788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Iranian divers have recovered 168 bodies from the wreckage of the Iranian plane. The IRANIAN NEWS AGENCY reported that 38 of the bodies are foreigners. The agency reported that eight Pakistanis are among those killed in the incident. The death of four Pakistanis has been confirmed in Islamabad. They include an officer at the Pakistani Embassy in Tehran, Captain Arshad, his wife, and two daughters. [passage omitted]

Sri Lanka

Delhi Says LTTE Agrees To Lay Down Arms

BK0107160888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jul 88

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam—LTTE—today announced its intention to hand over arms and take part in the provincial elections in Tamil areas of Sri Lanka. The announcement was made in Madras by the chief representative of the LTTE in India, Mr Sadasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu. He told newsmen that the announcement should clear doubts that the LTTE is afraid of facing the people and taking part in the democratic election process. He also said that the LTTE continues to stand by the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement and pledges cooperation in its implementation.

Replying to a question, Mr Kittu said the quantum of weapons to be handed over by the LTTE is under negotiation with the Indian Government official. Once an agreement is reached the LTTE will hand over the arms.

Mr Kittu said that a final decision in the matter would be taken after consulting the LTTE chief, Mr Prabhakaran.

Regarding the announcement of the Sri Lankan Presidential Secretariat yesterday in Colombo that Northern and Eastern Provinces would be made a single unit, Mr Kittu said this is only a statement by President Jayewardene and not a proclamation. Only a presidential proclamation to this effect can satisfy the Tamil people of Sri Lanka.

Mr Kittu hoped that the Indian Government would persuade the Sri Lankan Government to issue a proclamation as early as possible.